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ABSTRACT

This seasonal idea/activity book for grades 1-6 features interesting facts on the origins of traditions and customs of spring and summer festivals from around the world. There are numerous hands-on art activities, a map of each country or continent of the activity's origin, and a brief explanation of each tradition. Areas and countries of the world include: (1) Africa (Egypt, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Burkina Faso); (2) Antarctica; (3) Asia (India, Japan, China, Korea, and Malaysia); (4) Australia; (5) Europe (Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Iceland, and Ireland); (6) North America (Mexico and the United States); and (7) South America (Peru, Venezuela, Chile, and El Salvador). A section called "Around the World" focuses on St. Patrick's Day, Easter, April Fool's Day, Passover, May Day, and Independence and Flag Days. A 13-item bibliography concludes the book. (EH)

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A Good Apple Seasonal Idea/Activity Book for Grades 1-6

GOOD APPLE
GA1528

International Spring and Summer Festivals

Projects and Patterns for Holiday Gifts, Greetings, Ornaments, Decorations, and Classroom Displays

ED 407 316

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International Spring and Summer Festivals

Projects and Patterns for Holiday Gifts, Greetings, Ornaments, Decorations, and Classroom Displays

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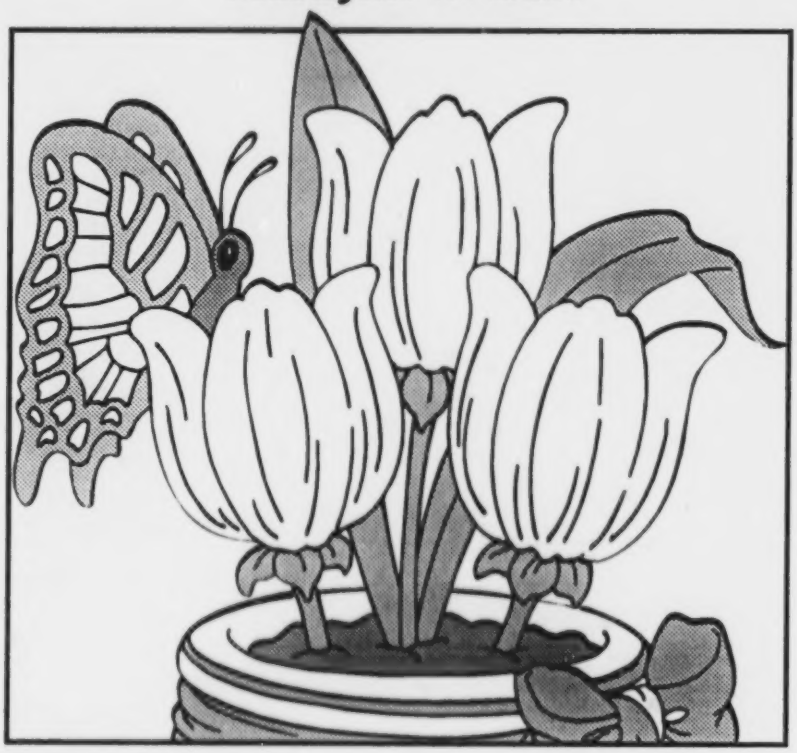

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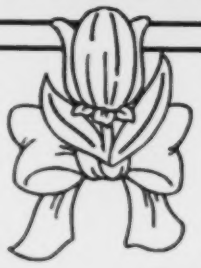
Introduction



The vernal equinox occurs in the month of March. This day is also referred to as the first day of spring. It is one of the two days in each year when the length of the day and the night are the same.

Long ago, elaborate ceremonies were held to celebrate the earth's awakening from its long winter nap. The advent of spring brought with it new beginnings and nature's message that life is good. Today, people all over the world continue to greet spring in a variety of ways ranging from elaborate festival celebrations to quiet walks through a park. Children eagerly await spring's promise of wonderful things to come when they can enjoy watching flowers bloom, catching glimpses of newborn creatures, walking barefoot, flying kites, catching bugs, and rolling down a grassy knoll.

Introduce your students to a variety of spring and summer holidays from around the world with the hands-on projects, activities, and background information featured in *International Spring and Summer Festivals*. Invite students to share what they learn with friends and relatives as they travel to different lands to celebrate traditional and contemporary holidays.

International Spring and Summer Festivals features interesting facts on the origins of traditions and customs; hands-on cut-and-paste activities for gifts, greetings, decorations, bulletin board displays; and more. Projects include apple blossom and egg forests, dragon and insect puppets, maypole headdresses, and flag patterns for international flag day displays. Reproduce patterns for students to color, cut out, and assemble or to use as templates to trace and copy. Also included at the end of each section are take-home notes. Use the notes to request craft supplies or family volunteers to share a spring and summer festival experience with your class. Eliminate the text on each take-home note to use for student writing exercises or display borders.

Spring and summer festivals are great occasions to sing, dance, and share nature experiences with friends and family.

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MORE HOLIDAYS AND FESTIVALS TO EXPLORE

AFRICA

Family Day	Lesotho
Ibū Afo Festival	Nigeria
Kamuzu Day	Malawi
Kapesi	Angola
Mutonboko Ceremony	Zambia
Sham Al-Naseem	Egypt
Soweto Day	South Africa
Tree Planting Day	Lesotho
Youth Day	Zambia

ASIA

Children's Day	Japan
Dragon Boat Festival	China
Festival of Dolls	India
Festival of Kites	Japan
Festival of the Poets	Japan
Higan Shumbum-No Hi	Japan
Holi or Basaat	India
Kartini	Indonesia
Maulid-an-Nabi	Lebanon
No-Ruz	Iran
Peach Festival	Japan
Rice Planting Festival	Japan
Songkran/New Year	Thailand
Tango No Sekku (Boys' Day)	Japan
Tu B'Shvat	Israel
Youth Day	China

EUROPE

The Battle of the Flowers	France
First Balloon Flight	France
Girls' Fair	Romania
Holland Festival	Netherlands
Joust of the Quintana	Italy
La Maya	Spain
Lammas Fair Day	Ireland
Oak-Apple Day	England
Pied Piper of Hamlin	Germany
Rose Harvest Festival	Bulgaria
Sinjska Alka	Yugoslavia
St. Columba	Ireland
Teacher's Day	Czechoslovakia
Viking Festival	Denmark
Windmill Day	Netherlands

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AFRICA

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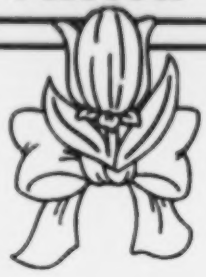
Africa



Egypt
In Egypt, Shem Al Nessim, the first day of spring, is celebrated by everyone. Families go on picnics, dance, sing, and play games. Storytellers also come into communities to tell tales to the children.

Plan a class picnic to celebrate the first day of spring. Invite parents to join in the festivities.

Provide each child with a 12" x 18" (30 cm x 45 cm) sheet of construction paper and the patterns on page 3 to make picnic place mats and name tags. Laminate place mats before use.

Nigeria
Late in March, Nigerians celebrate the Ibū Afo Festival. This festival is a solemn celebration to say good-bye to the old year and welcome the new year. On a specific day and hour, loud noises break the silence signifying the end of the old year. Children run, lock doors behind them, and wait until the noise stops. As soon as the noise stops, all doors are opened and the people step outside greeting the New Year with applause.

Sierra Leone
In the spring, Sierra Leone celebrates a lantern festival in Freetown. The festival originated in the early 1900's in honor of a religious event. The lanterns were once paper box enclosures mounted on sticks. Today, the lanterns are large elaborate structures.

Provide each student with one of the project patterns on pages 4-7 to make ornaments for a classroom lantern festival.

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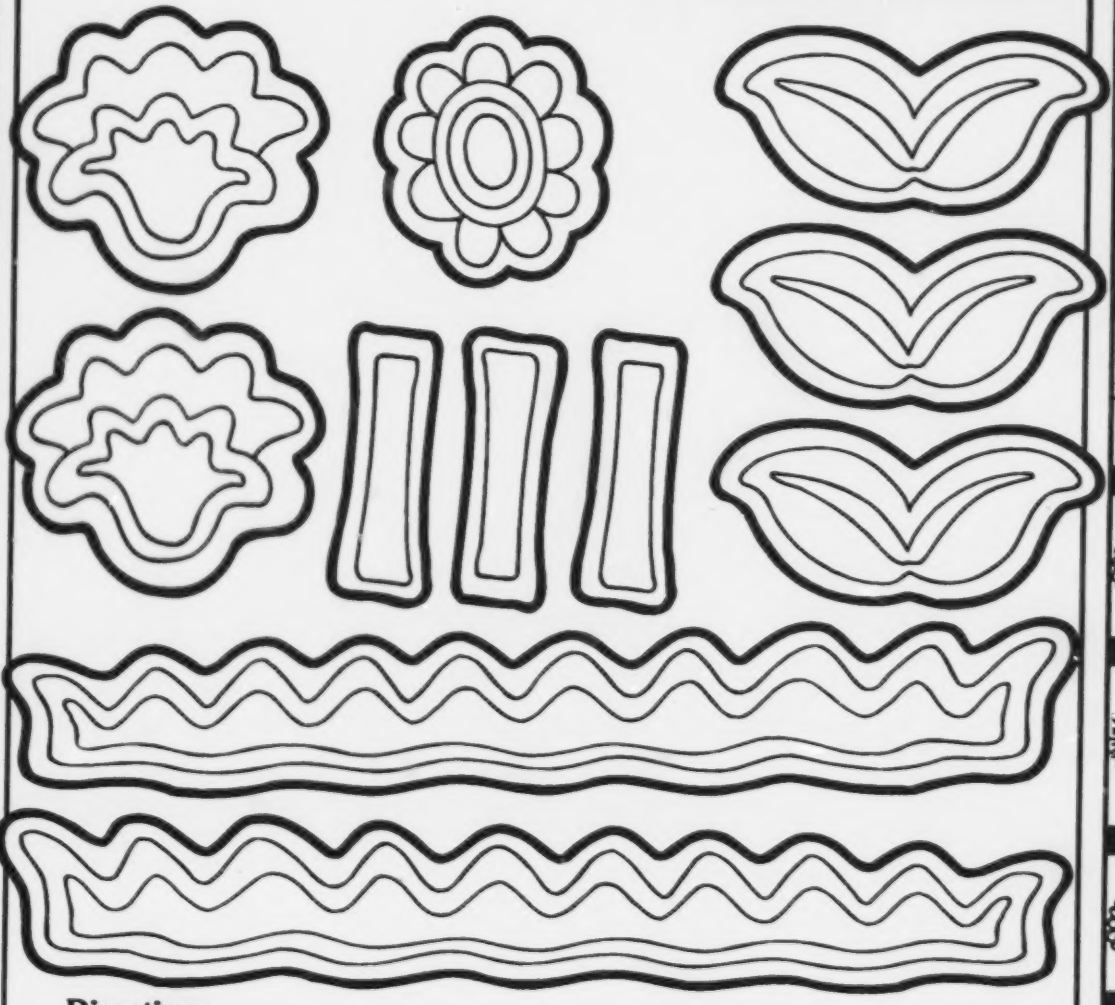
A Spring Picnic Place Mat

Materials

construction paper
crayons or markers
glue
scissors



Directions

1. Color and cut out the patterns.
2. Assemble and glue the patterns onto a sheet of construction paper.
3. Write your name on the place mat.

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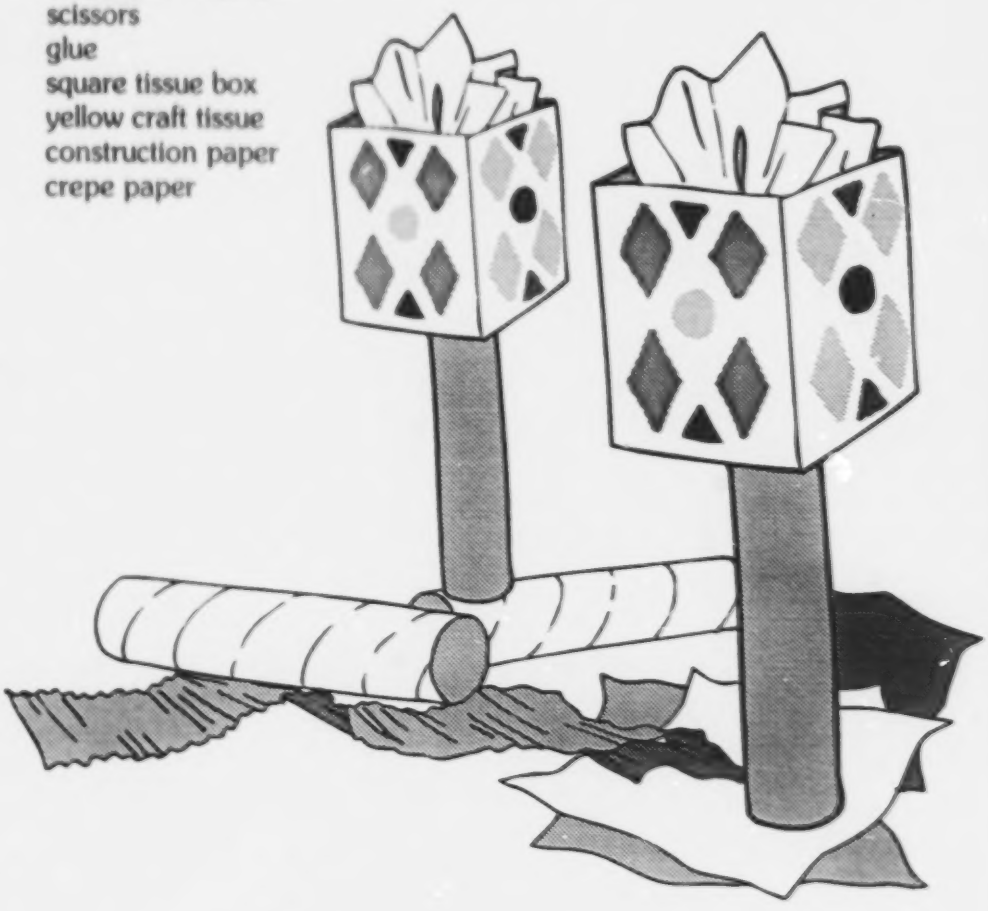
A 3-D Lantern

Materials

- yellow shape patterns
- paper towel roll
- crayons or markers
- scissors
- glue
- square tissue box
- yellow craft tissue
- construction paper
- crepe paper



Directions

1. Cut off the top of a square tissue box.
2. Cover the tissue box with construction paper.
3. Color, cut out, and glue a design of the yellow shapes around the box.
4. Wrap a sheet of construction or crepe paper around a paper towel roll.
5. Glue the paper towel roll to the bottom of the tissue box.
6. Stuff yellow craft tissue in the lantern as shown.
7. Hide small treats in the lantern for a surprise snack.

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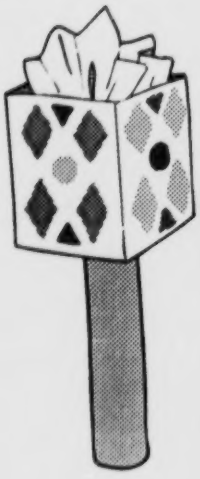
Shape Patterns



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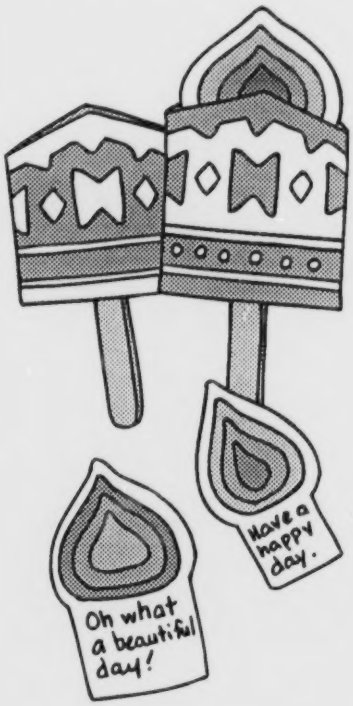
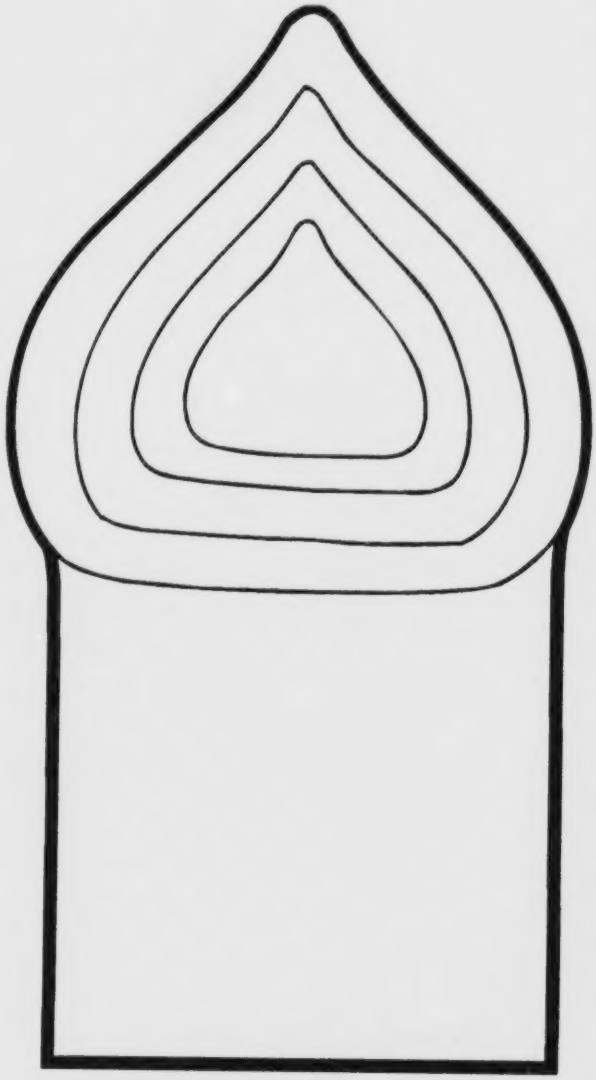
Pocket Lantern Greetings

Materials

crayons or markers
scissors
glue
glitter
yellow construction paper
craft stick





Directions

1. Color and cut out the patterns.
2. Fold the pocket pattern along dotted lines.
3. Apply glue to the tabs and assemble to form a pocket.
4. Color and cut out the candle pattern.
5. Write a message on the candle, then insert it in the lantern pocket.
6. Apply glue and attach a craft stick to the back of the lantern.

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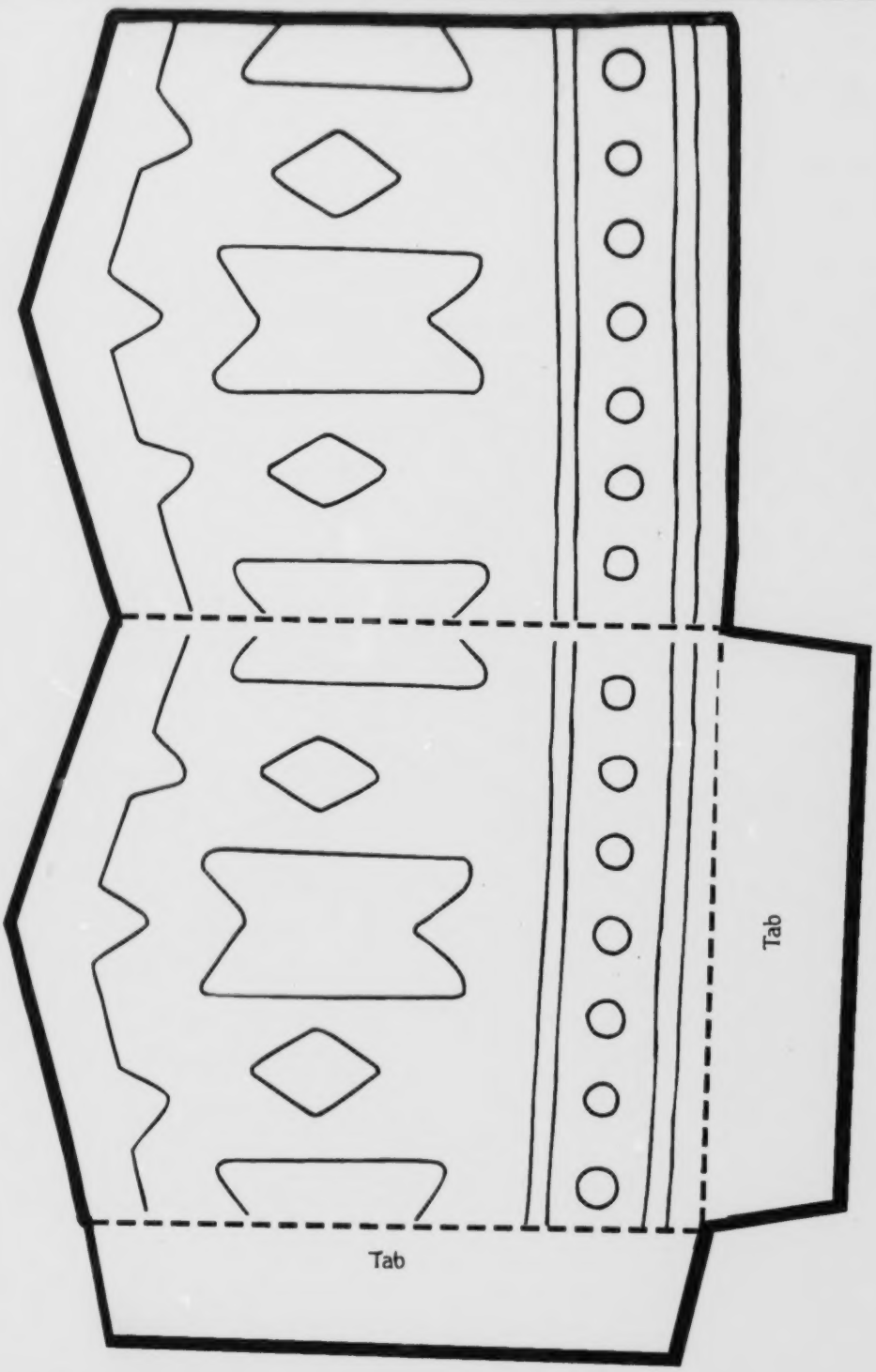
Lantern Pocket



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Smelling the Breezes Day

Late in the month of March, the people of Egypt get up early, cut open an onion, and smell it for good luck. This unique activity is traditionally shared by all kinds of people regardless of national origins or religious beliefs.

Although there are no special ceremonies associated with this day, sometimes families wear bright pink clothing and gather to share a country picnic.

Reproduce the onion patterns on page 9 on pink construction paper. Provide each child with onions to make headbands or pendants. Have children wear their pink onion ornaments on a smelling-the-breezes outdoor adventure to a local park or walk around the school grounds. Encourage them to identify familiar scents as they walk.

An Olfactory Adventure

Create a sensory center in your classroom where students can develop sensory perception.

1. Wrap baby food jars with wallpaper or cloth scraps.
2. Cut oranges, apples, bananas, pineapples, boiled eggs, and other scented foods to place in jars. Spray cotton balls with floral perfumes and drops of vanilla and almond extracts.
3. Place the cotton balls and food samples in the jars and cover with lightweight muslin or gauze. Secure cloth covers with rubber bands.
4. Have children smell and identify contents of each jar.

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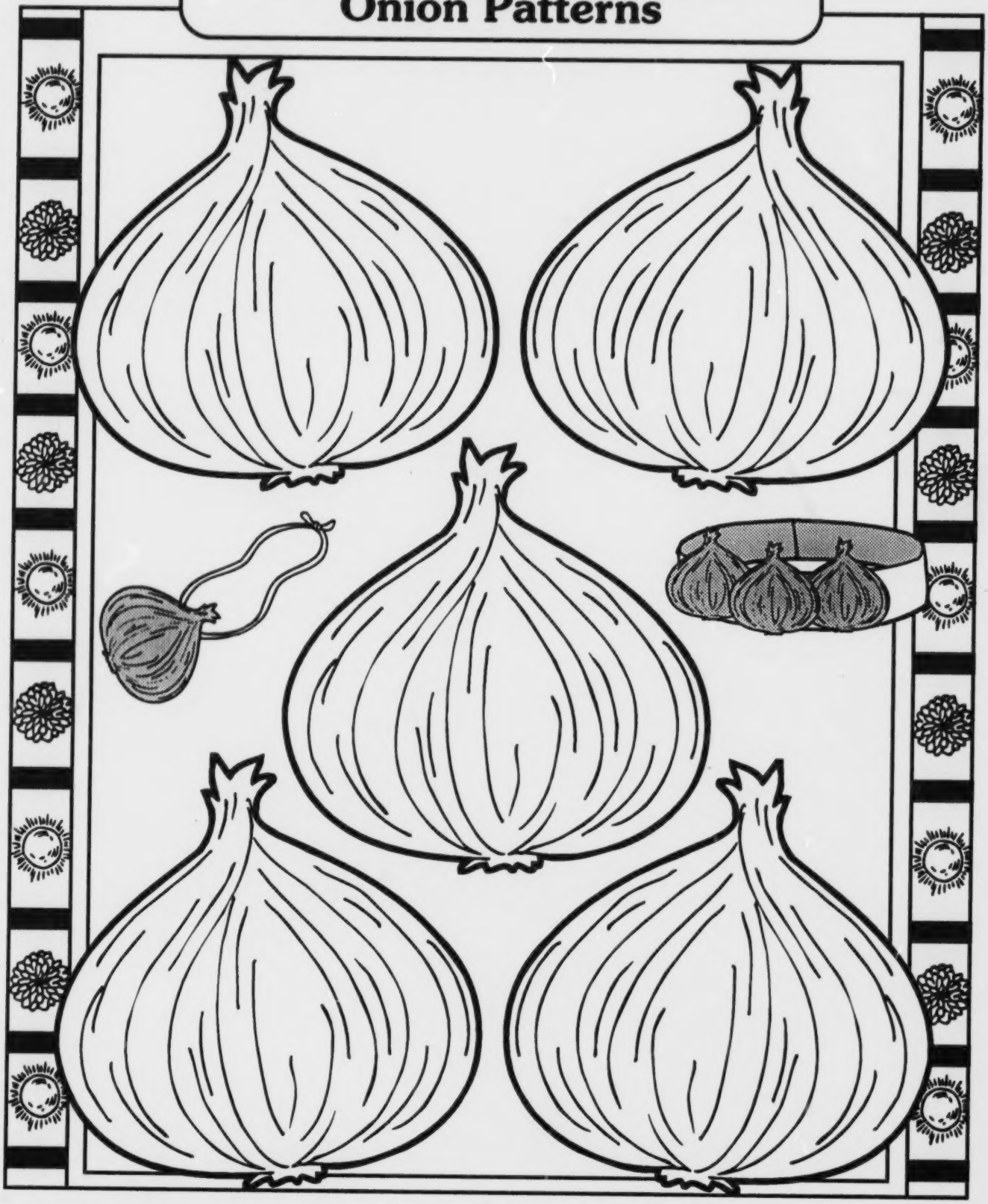
Onion Patterns



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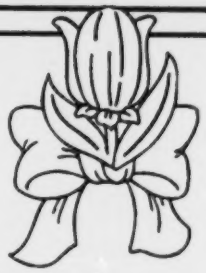
Burkina Faso



During the mid-nineteenth century, *Dodo* was introduced as a children's entertainment activity. It was a celebration in honor of a legendary story.

Legend tells a story of a hunter's promise to the ruler of the land. The hunter promised the emir not to hunt on a special day. It came to pass on that very day that a shepherd boy called for help because a monster was attacking his sheep. Without thinking, the hunter killed the monster. Then he ran away because he had broken his promise to the emir.

A long time passed and the emir missed his friend. The emir sent an army to find the hunter. When the hunter returned, the emir was happy and all the children danced.

A Dodo Masquerade is a play activity that occurs on the night of the full moon during the celebration of Ramadan. The participants are boys between the ages of 7 and 12. This age group is called a Petit Dodo. Boys between 12 and 16 are called the Grand Dodo.

The boys form neighborhood groups with one boy as the primary singer and the others as the accompanying chorus. They gather a variety of materials to make costumes, masks, knee-bells, and dancing sticks.

In costume, the group sings and dances from house to house in return for gifts. Performances include a greeting, dancing, a competition, the entrance of the animal masqueraders, and the exit. Once, the dancing had little organization. Today, a few simple steps are repeated by all the masqueraders.

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Boys' Dodo Masquerade

Invite your class to participate in a performance honoring Burkina Faso's Dodo masquerade. Provide each student with one of the animal costumes found on pages 13-22 and the craft supplies listed below.

Materials

- crayons or markers
- scissors
- glue
- paper plates
- brown grocery bags
- old gloves or mittens
- yarn
- small aluminum pie tins or jar lids
- paper towel rolls

Once costumes are completed, divide the class into four groups. Teach each group four different dance movements, with one movement common to all groups. Have each group practice their steps. Incorporate arm movements for students to use with their dancing sticks.

When they have mastered their steps, have the groups form a circle, keeping pace with the one common movement. Then, have each group move in turn to the center of the circle to perform. Invite parents to attend the performance.

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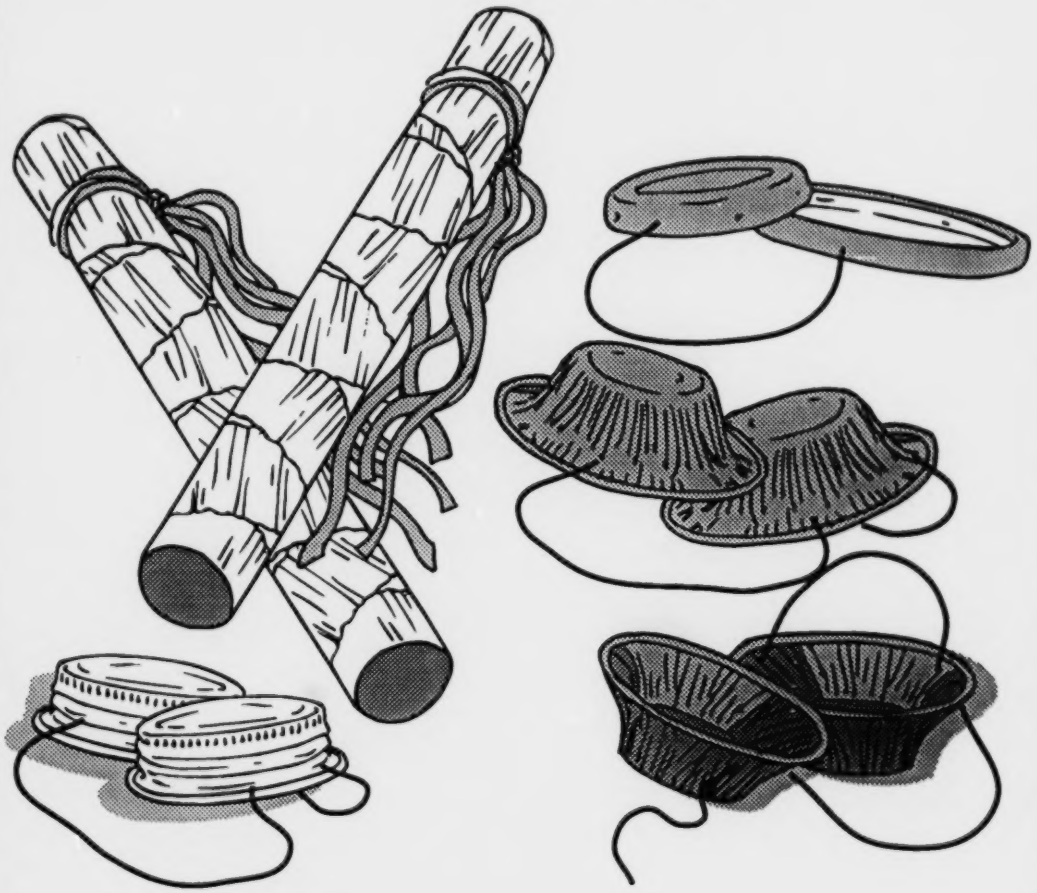
Dancing Sticks & Knee Bells

Use the take-home note on page 23 to ask parents to send two paper towel rolls and several small aluminum pie tins or jar lids. Children will use these supplies to make dancing sticks and knee bells to complete their costumes.

Dancing Sticks
Provide each child with two paper towel rolls, crepe paper streamers, yarn, ribbon, or craft tissue to decorate their dancing sticks.

Knee Bells
Pre-punch holes in jar lids or small aluminum pie tins for students to make knee bells. Show students how to thread and tie yarn or ribbon through the holes in each lid or pie tin so that there is a "bell" at each end of the yarn. Tie yarn or ribbon just above the knee and leave the bells dangling.



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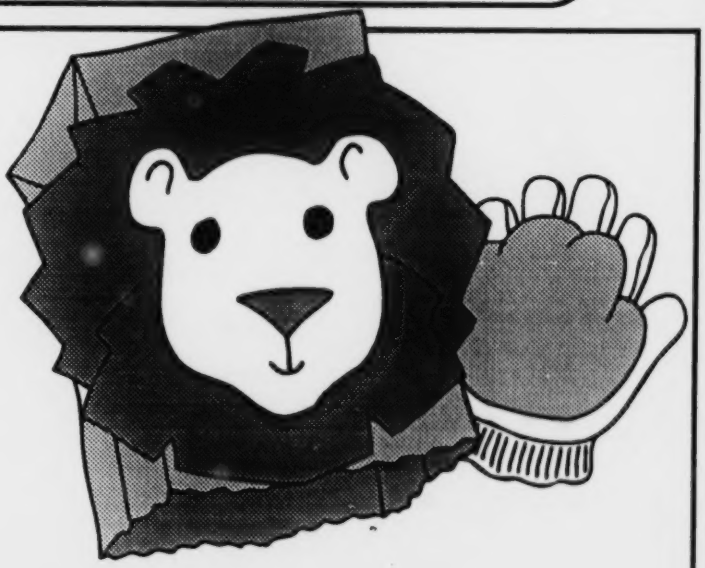
A Lion Costume



Materials

lion mask pattern
brown grocery bag
crayons or markers
scissors
glue
gold or yellow yarn

Directions

1. Color and cut out the mask pattern.
2. Apply glue to the back of the mask and attach to a brown grocery bag.
3. When dry, cut out the eyes.

Lion's Tail

Materials

yellow or gold yarn

Directions

1. Cut several 36" (90 cm) lengths of yellow or gold yarn.
2. Gather all the yarn lengths and tie a knot at one end.
3. Braid the yarn and tie off the end to form a tail.
4. Attach the tail to your belt, belt loop, or secure with a safety pin.

Lion Paws

Materials

pair of old gloves or mittens
yellow or gold construction paper
crayons or markers
glue

Directions

1. Draw and cut out two paws from yellow or gold construction paper.
2. Apply glue to the back of each paw and attach to the top of a pair of old gloves.

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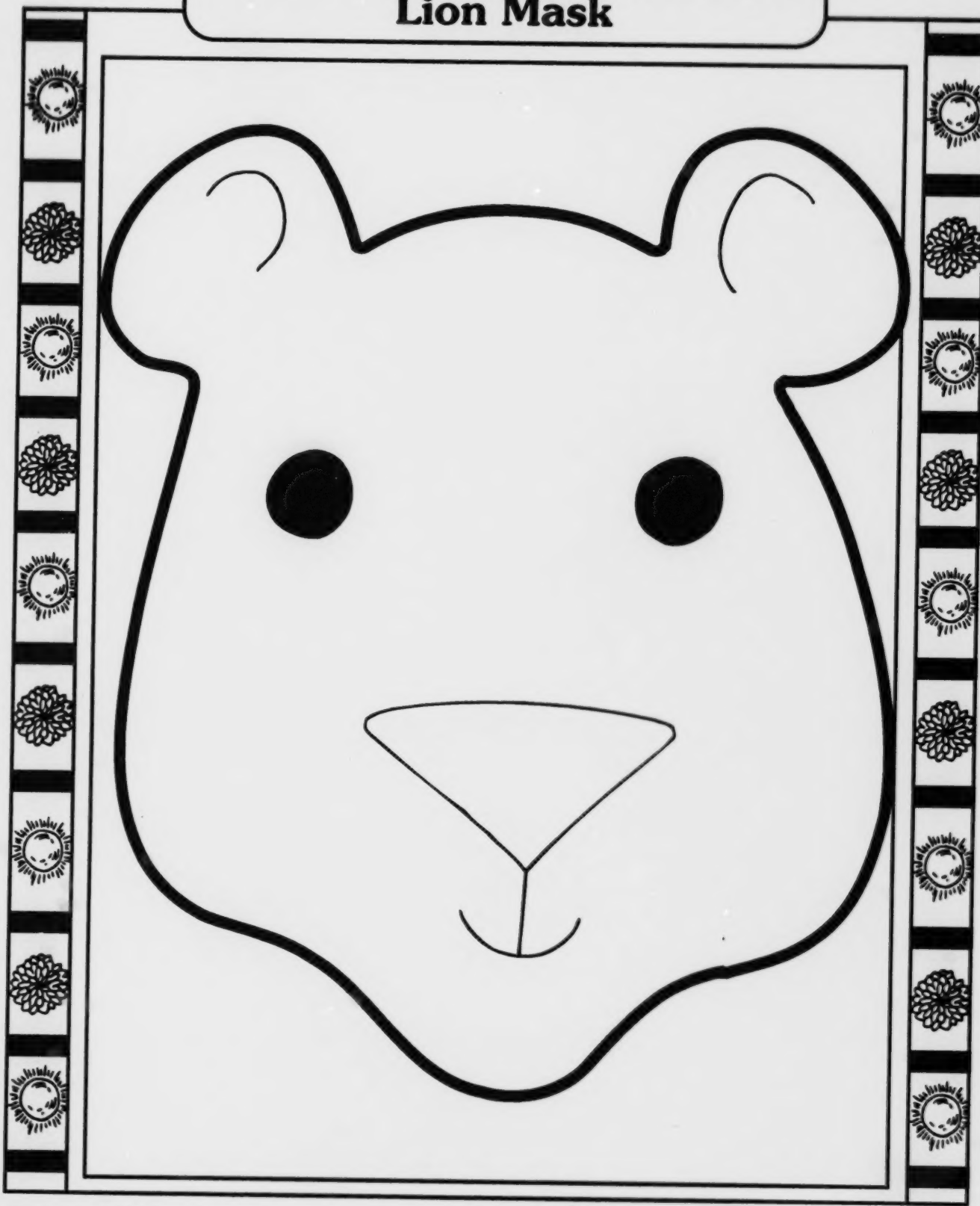
Lion Mask



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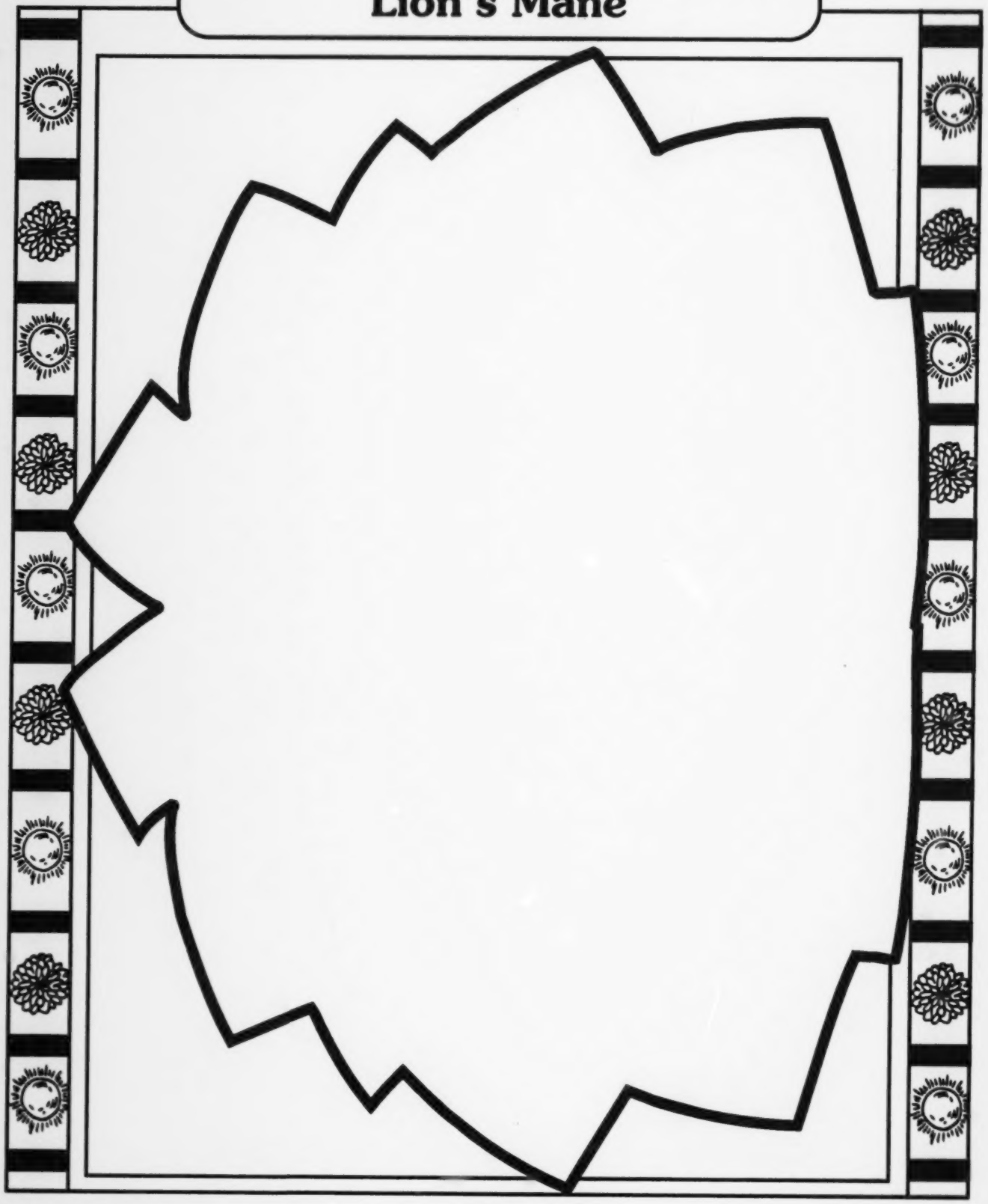
Lion's Mane



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A Monkey Costume

Materials

monkey mask pattern
brown grocery bag
crayons or markers
scissors
glue

Directions

1. Color and cut out the mask pattern.
2. Apply glue to the back of the mask and attach to a brown grocery bag.
3. When dry, cut out the eyes.

Monkey's Tail

Materials

brown yarn

Directions

1. Cut several 36" (90 cm) lengths of brown yarn.
2. Gather all the yarn lengths and tie a knot at one end.
3. Braid the yarn and tie off the end to form a tail.
4. Attach the tail to your belt, belt loop, or secure with a safety pin.

Monkey Hands

Materials

pair of old gloves or mittens
brown construction paper
brown yarn

Directions

1. Place your hand with fingers slightly apart, on a folded sheet of brown construction paper.
2. Trace around your hand and fingers.
3. Cut out your traced hand.
4. Apply glue to the back of each hand pattern and attach to the top of a pair of old gloves.

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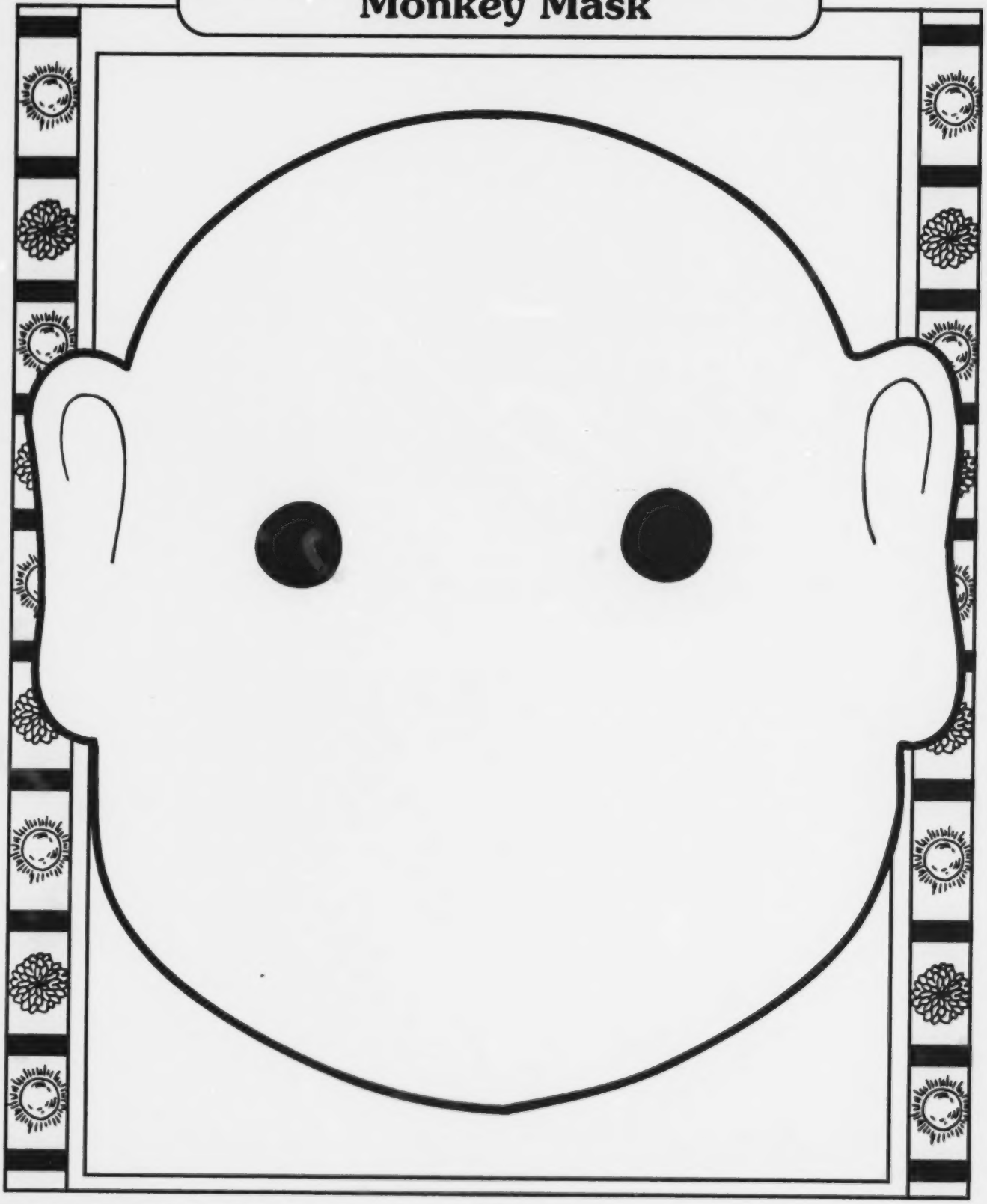
Monkey Mask



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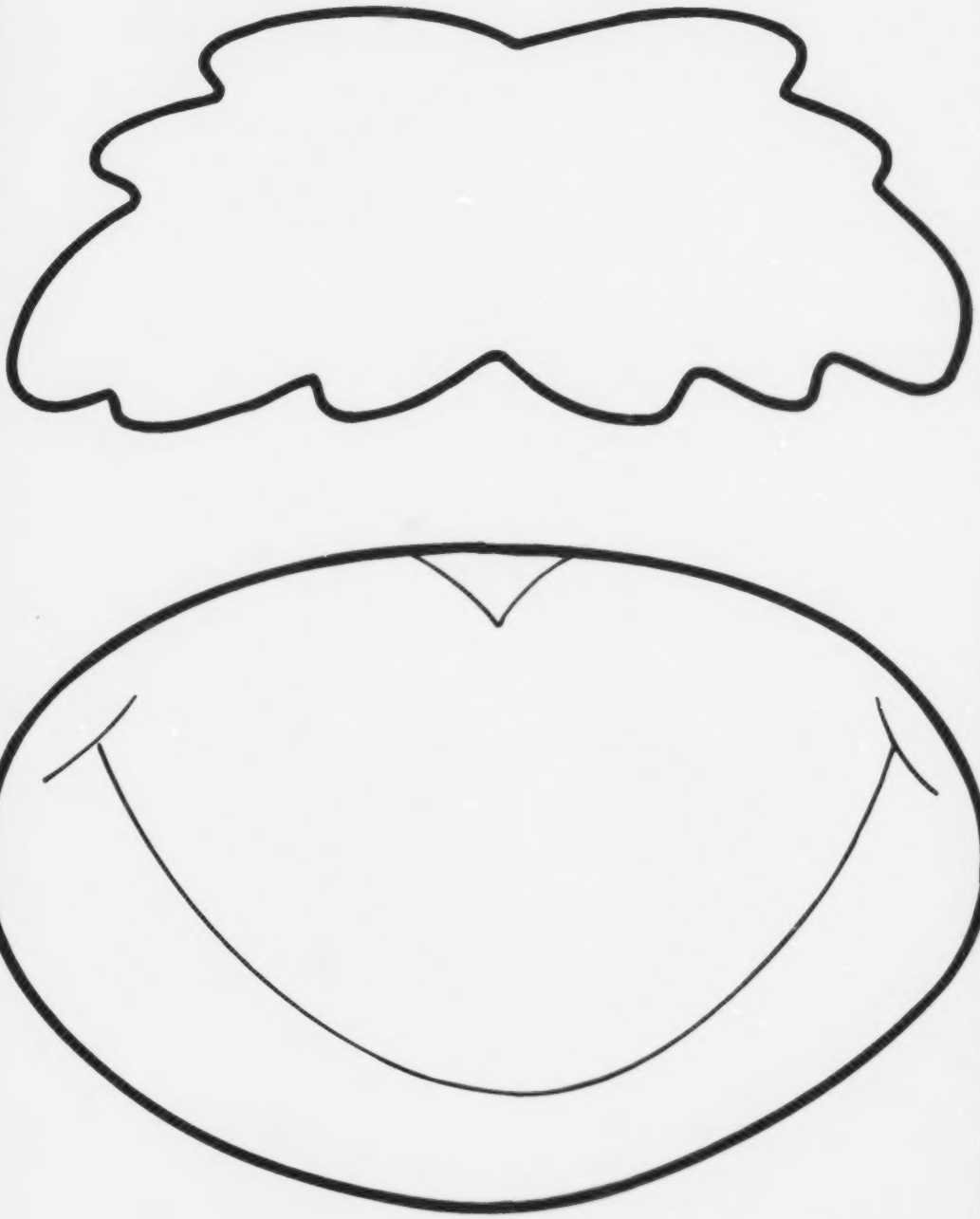
Monkey Mask



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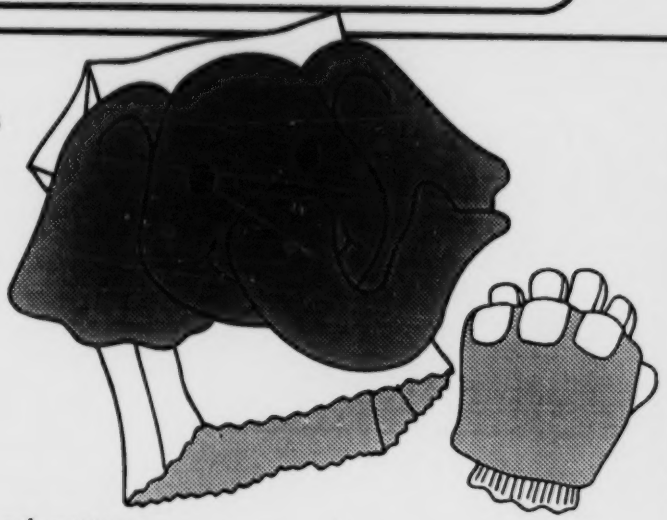
An Elephant Costume



Materials

elephant mask patterns
brown grocery bag
paper plate
crayons or markers
scissors
glue
stapler

Directions

1. Color and cut out the mask patterns.
2. Apply glue to the back of the face and ears and attach them to a brown grocery bag.
3. When dry, cut out the eyes.
4. Apply glue to the back of the trunk and attach to your mask.

Elephant's Tail

Materials

gray yarn

Directions

1. Cut several 8" (20 cm) lengths of gray yarn.
2. Gather all the yarn lengths and tie a knot at one end.
3. Braid the yarn and tie off the end to form a tail.
4. Attach the tail to your belt, belt loop, or secure with a safety pin.

Elephant's Feet

Materials

pair of old gloves or mittens
gray construction paper
crayons or markers
glue

Directions

1. Draw and cut out two elephant feet from gray construction paper.
2. Apply glue to the back of each foot and attach to the top of a pair of old gloves.

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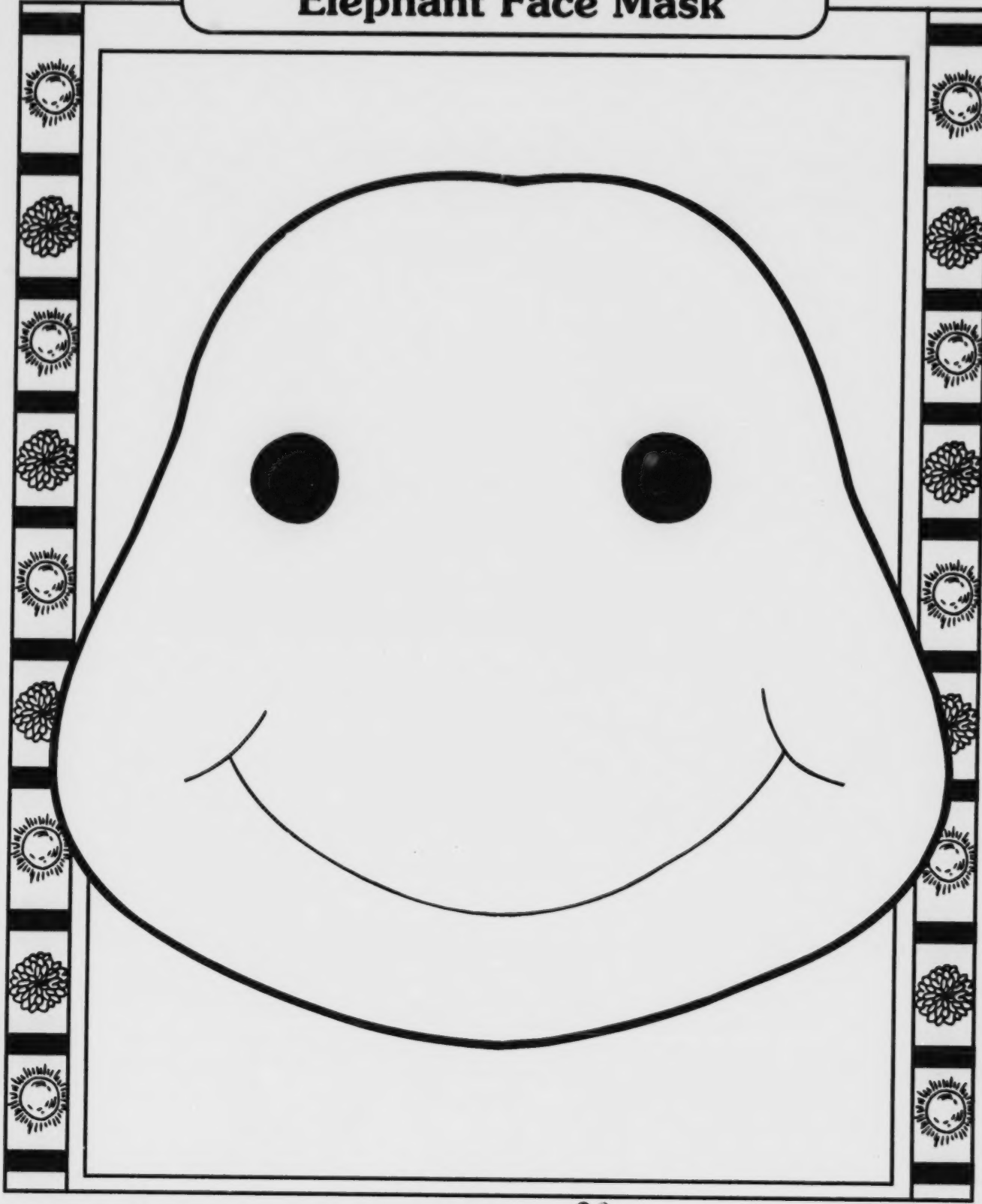
Elephant Face Mask



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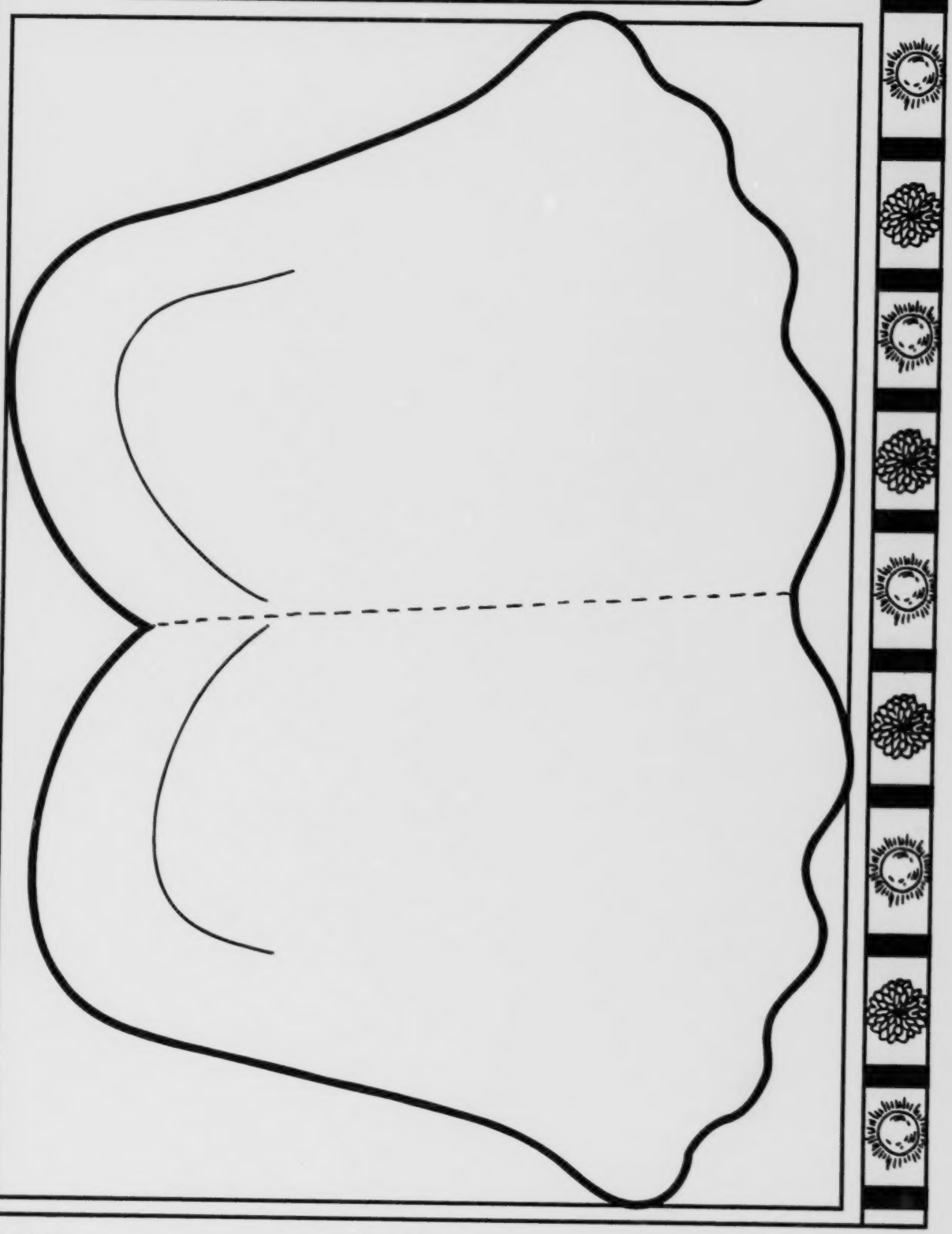
Elephant Ears



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Elephant Trunk

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A TAKE-HOME NOTE FROM
AFRICA

_____
Date

Dear _____,

We are _____

_____.

Please _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Thank you!

_____
Teacher

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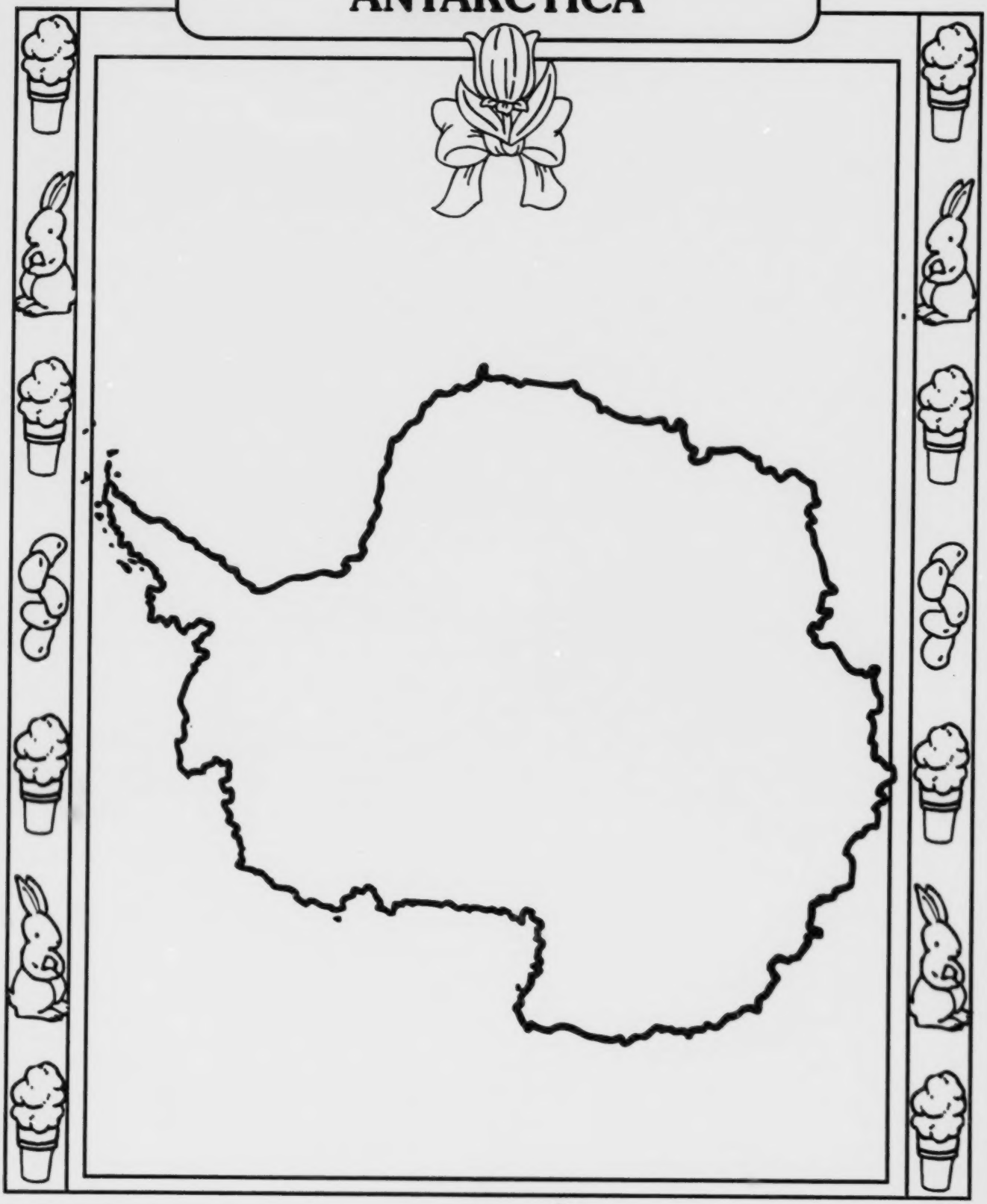
ANTARCTICA



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HOLIDAY TRADITIONS & LEGENDS

Antarctica

Although Antarctica's climate is inhospitable for most species, a variety of creatures frequent its coastal waters throughout the year.

Spring brings new growth, new life, and a renewed sense that life is carefree and beautiful. Ask your students to pretend they are going on a spring vacation to the icy continent of Antarctica with Petri Penguin, Sally Seal, or Ollie Orca. Invite them to write about their imaginary vacations with one of these special friends.

Provide children with crayons or markers, scissors, manuscript paper, a pencil, a sheet of construction paper, and the ice cream cone pattern on page 30 to write a spring vacation story.

Cover your bulletin board with white or pale blue paper. Enlarge and reproduce the patterns on pages 26-29 to create a backdrop to display student work.

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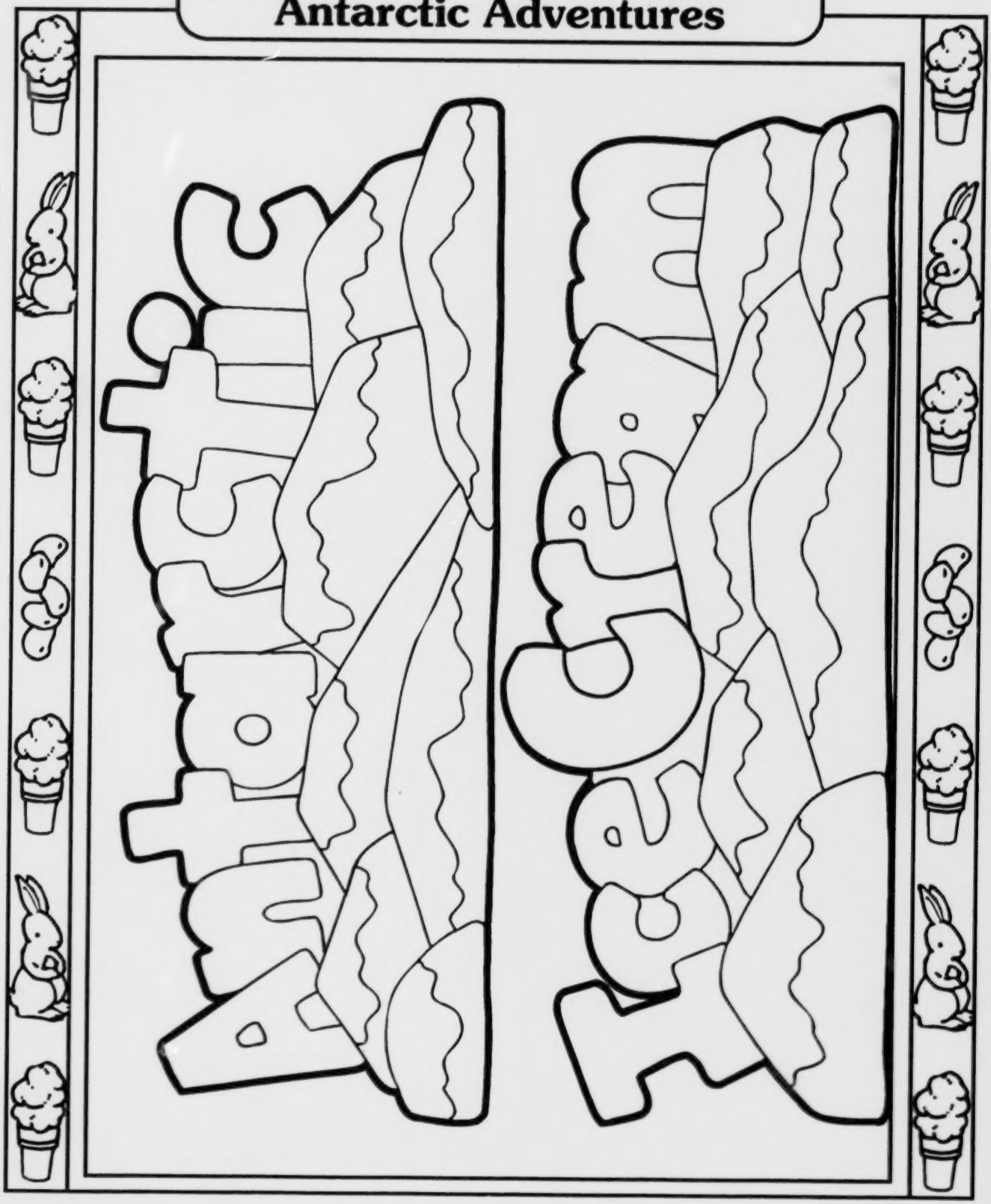
Antarctic Adventures



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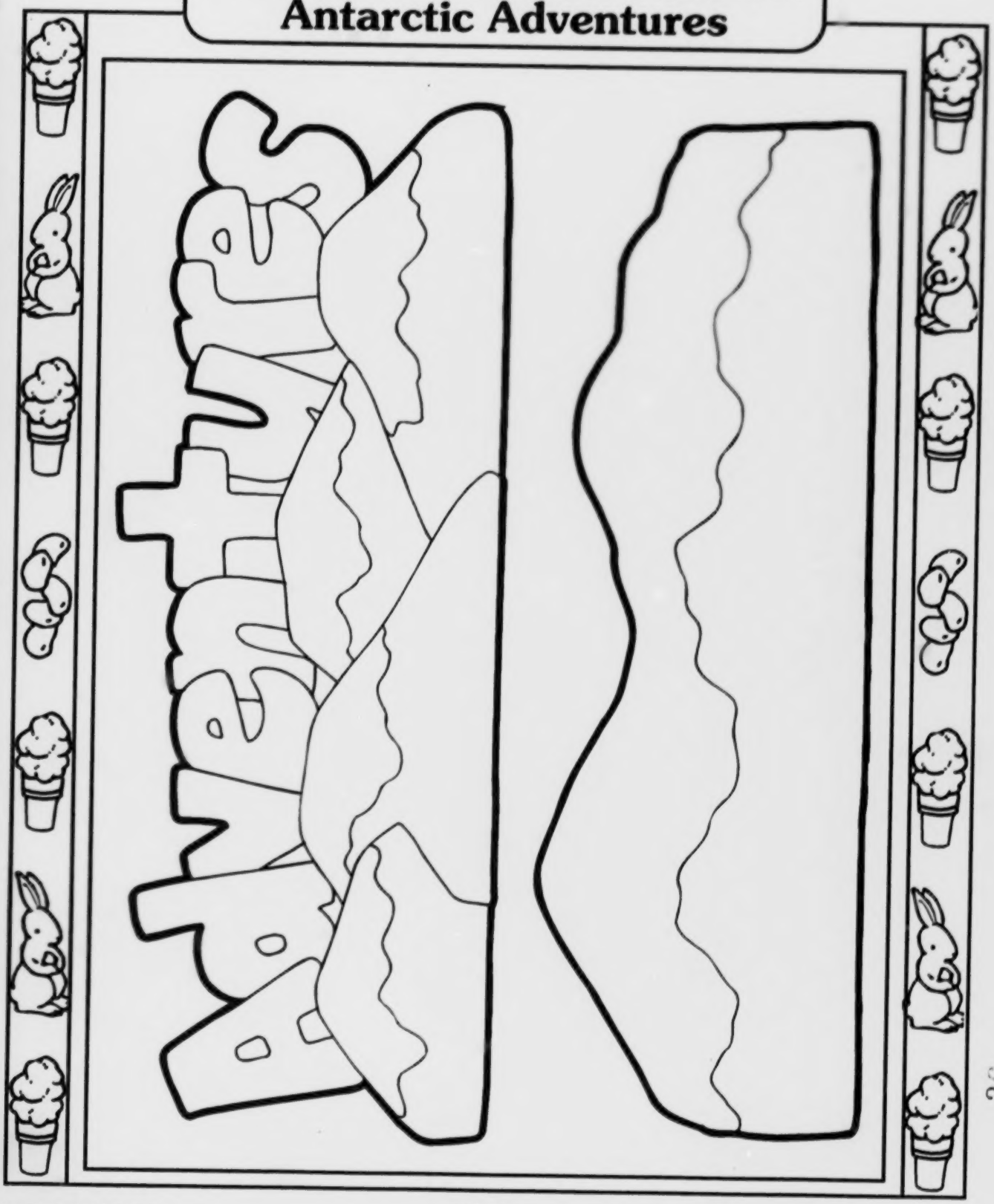
Antarctic Adventures



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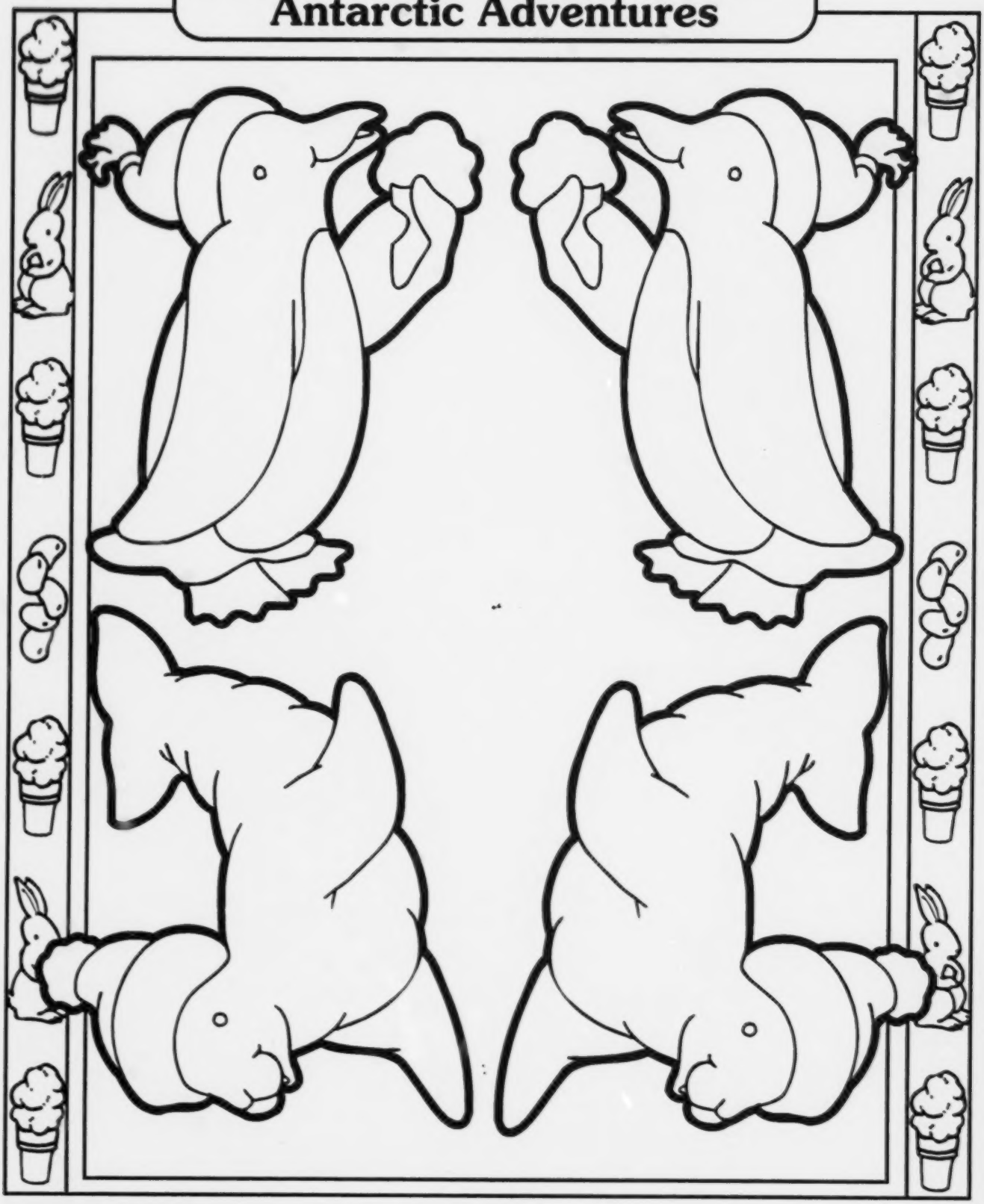
Antarctic Adventures



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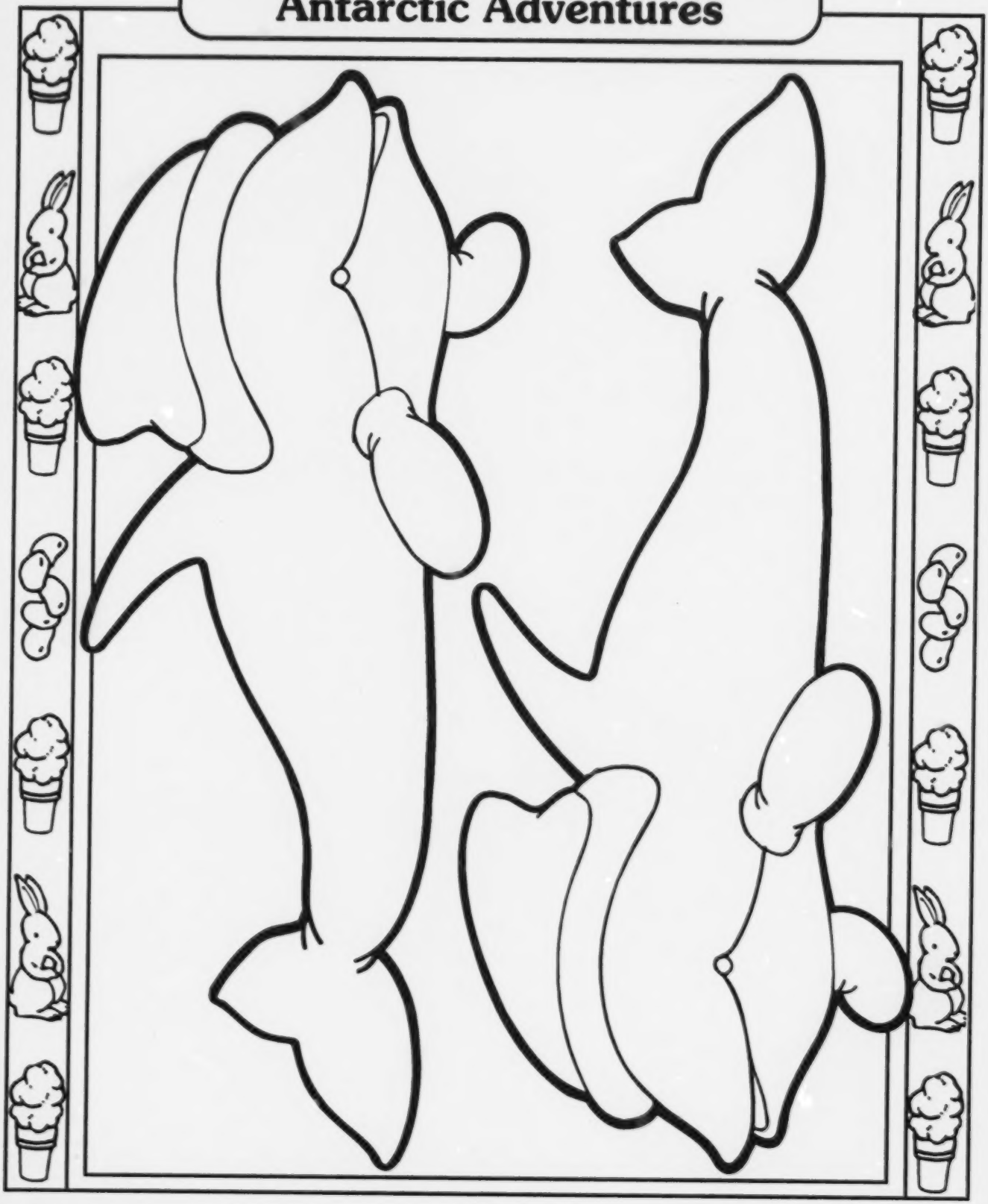
Antarctic Adventures



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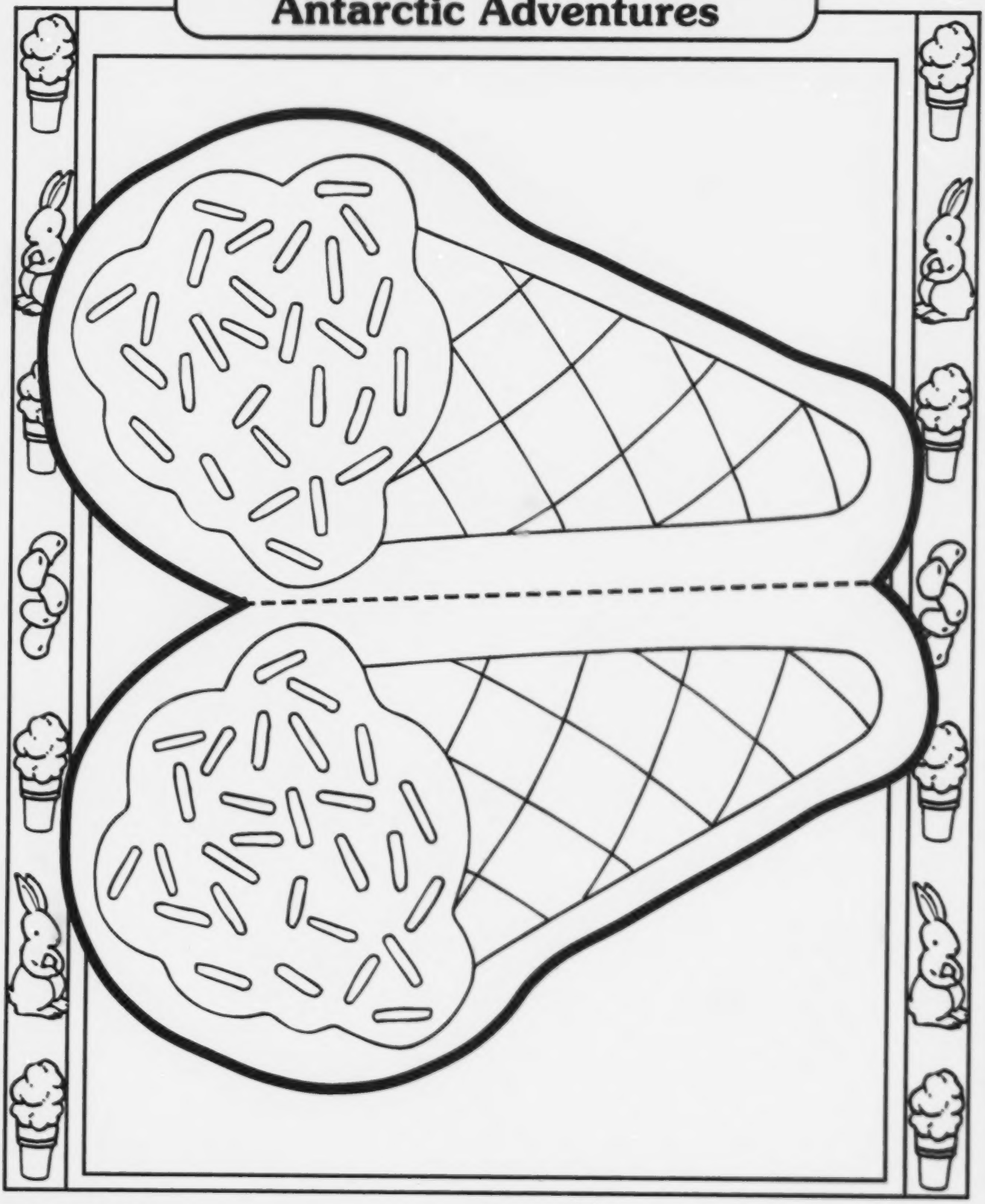
Antarctic Adventures



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Petri Penguin

Directions

1. Color and cut out the patterns.
2. Attach Petri's flippers and cut as shown.
3. Glue Petri to a 12" x 18" (30 cm x 45 cm) sheet of construction paper.
4. Write a story on a separate sheet of paper.
5. Then insert and staple your story under Petri's flippers.

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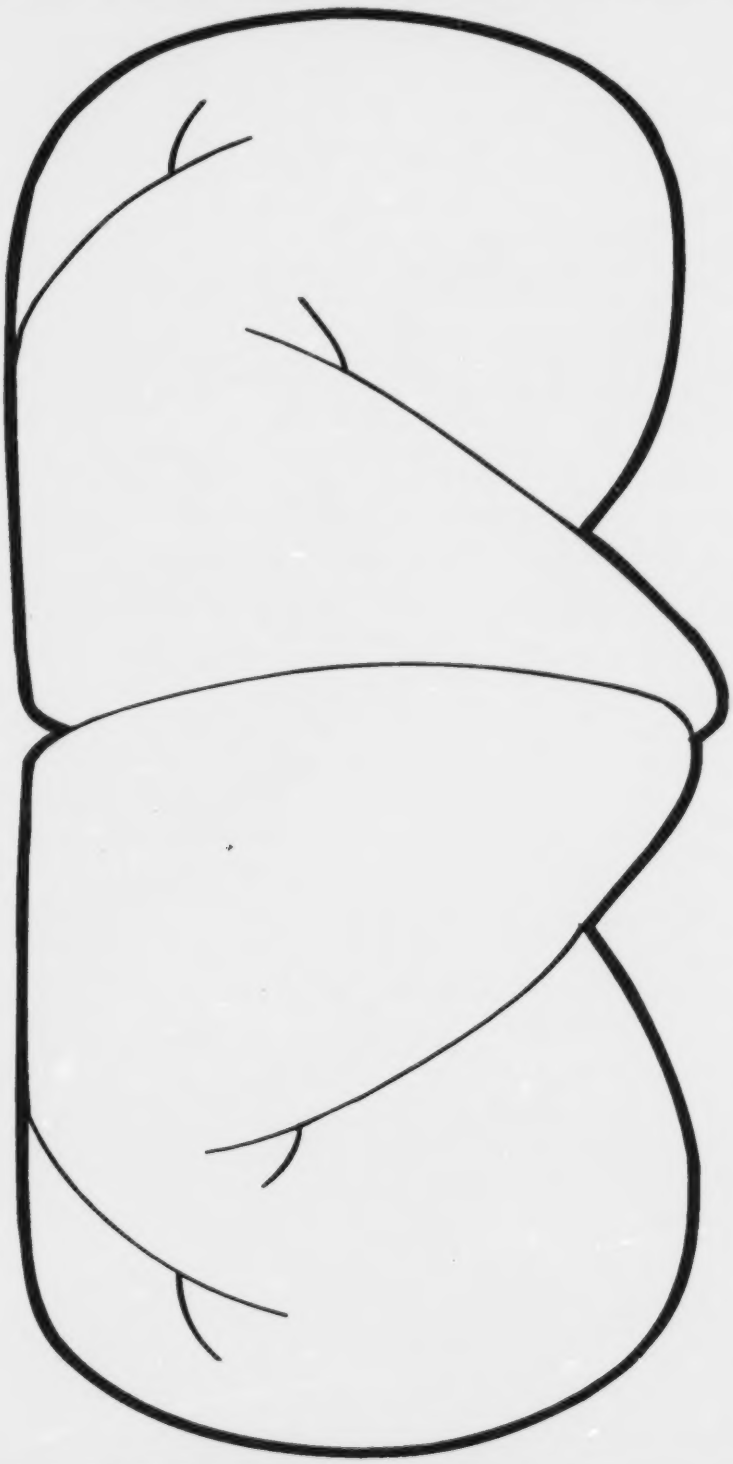
Petri Penguin's Flippers



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Sally Seal

Directions

1. Color and cut out the pattern.
2. Attach Sally's flippers and cut as shown.
3. Glue Sally to a 12" x 18" (30 cm x 45 cm) sheet of construction paper.
4. Write a story on a separate sheet of paper.
5. Then insert and staple your story under Sally's flippers.

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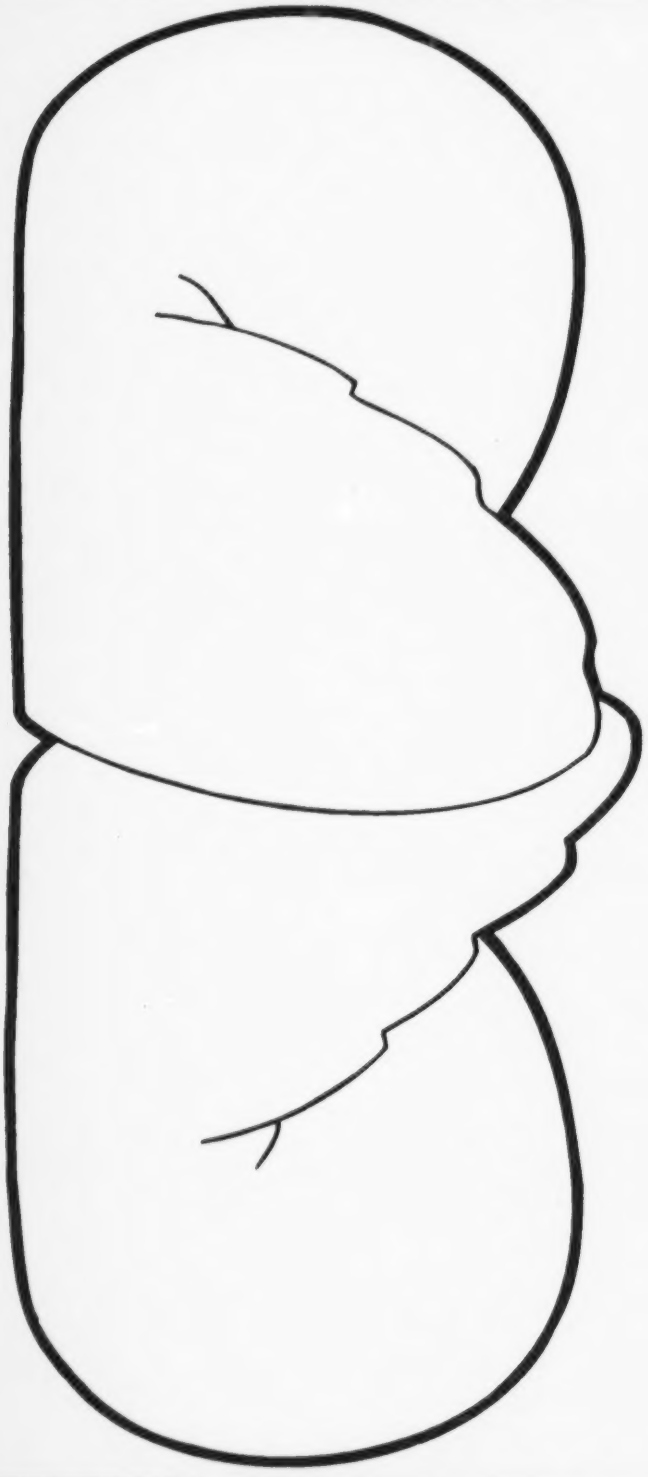
Sally Seal's Flippers



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Ollie Orca

Directions

1. Color and cut out the pattern.
2. Attach Ollie's fins and cut as shown.
3. Glue Ollie to a 12" x 18" (30 cm x 45 cm) sheet of construction paper.
4. Write a story on a separate sheet of paper.
5. Then insert and staple your story under Ollie's fins.

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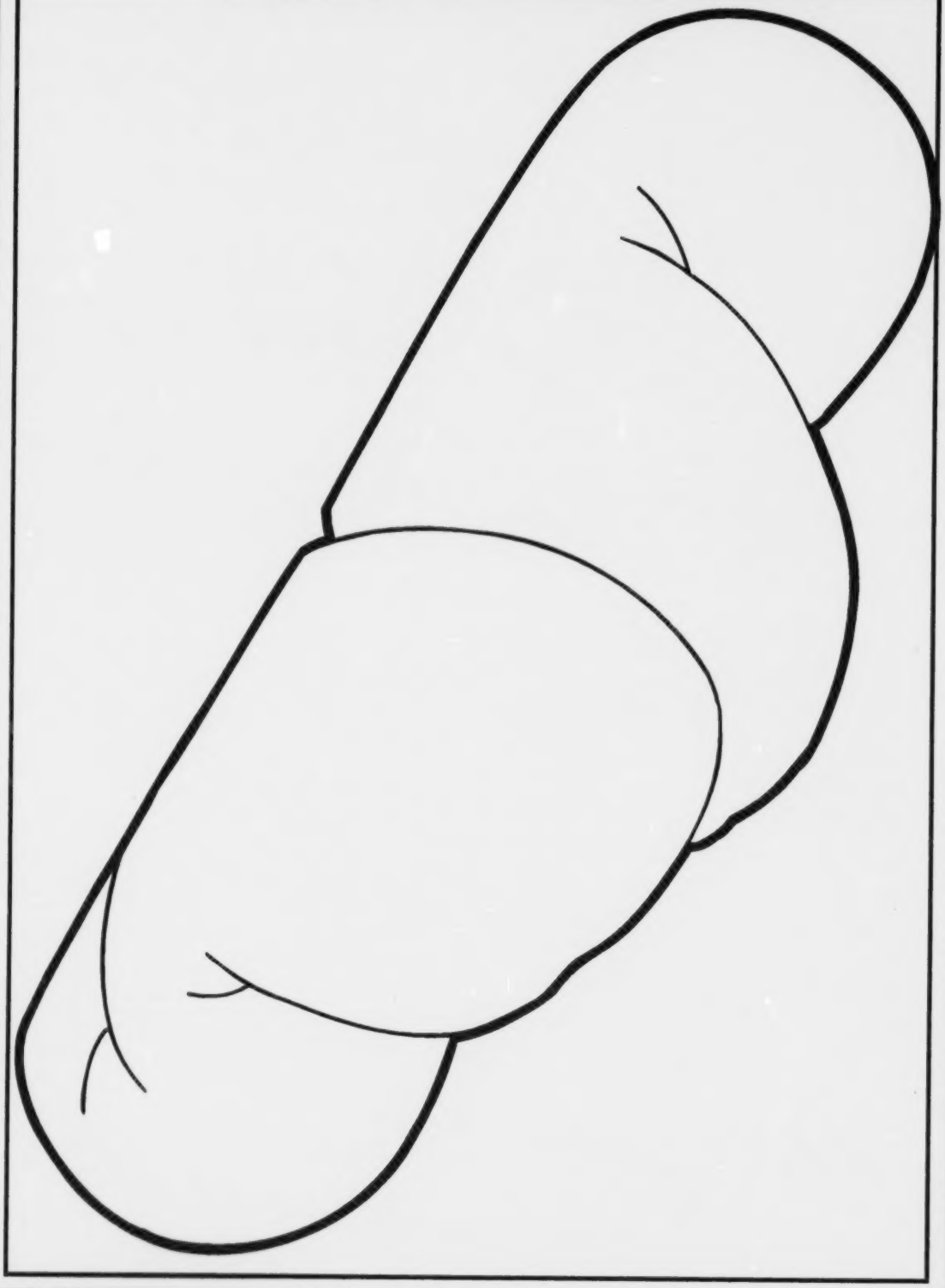
Ollie Orca's Fins



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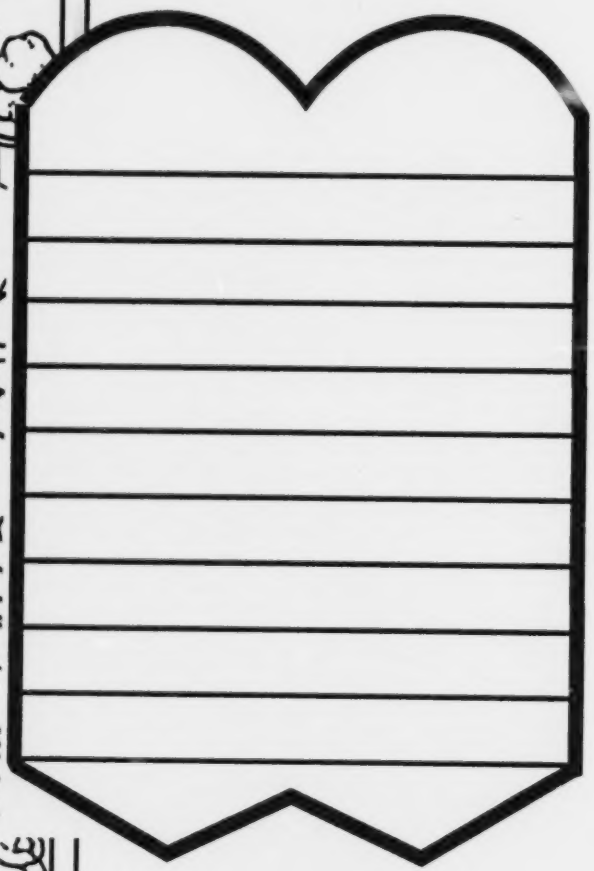
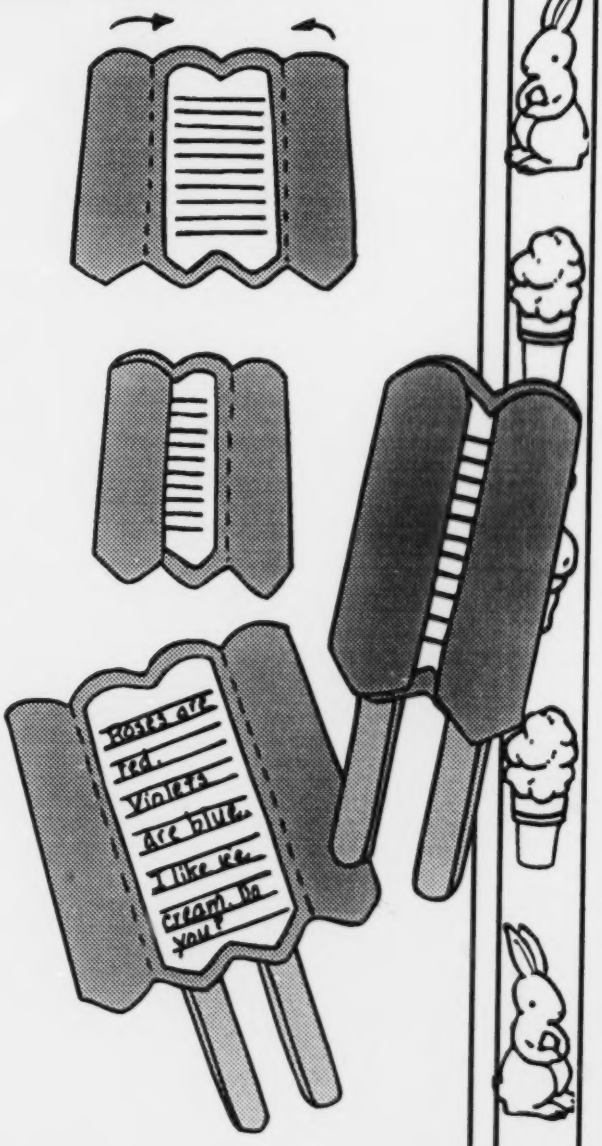
Ice Pop Poetry

Reproduce the patterns on pages 37-38 for students to write their own poems about Antarctica or another favorite subject after a unit on poetry. Provide students with two craft sticks, crayons or markers, scissors, and glue. Display finished poems on your classroom bulletin board.





Directions

1. Color and cut out the patterns.
2. Fold the folder along the dotted line.
3. Write a poem on the lined pattern and glue it inside the folder.
4. Glue two craft sticks to the back of your folder.

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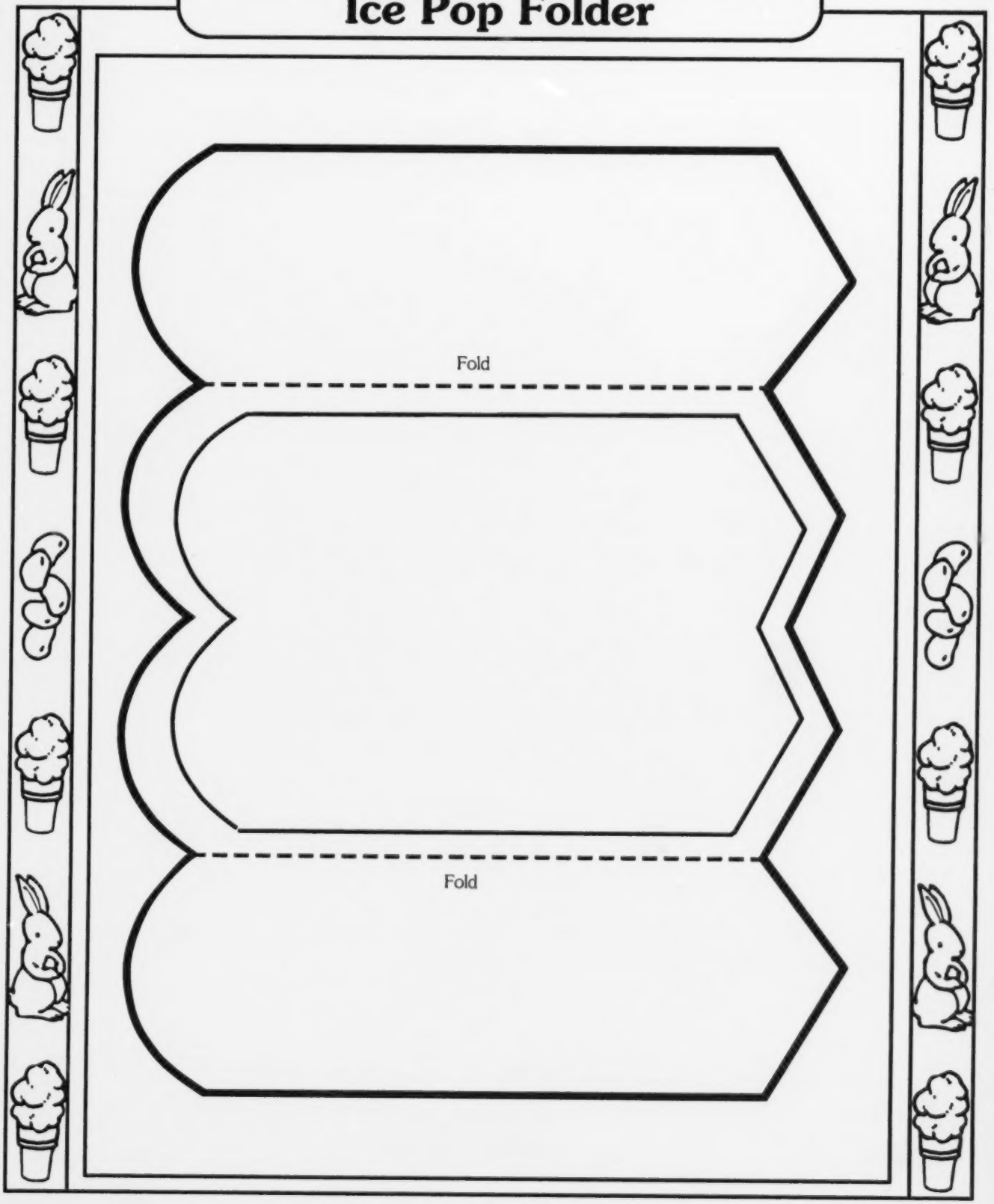
Ice Pop Folder



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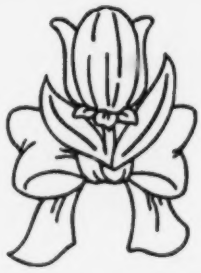
A TAKE-HOME NOTE FROM
ANTARCTICA



_____

Date

Dear _____,

We are _____

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Please _____

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_____

_____

Thank you!

_____

Teacher

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ASIA

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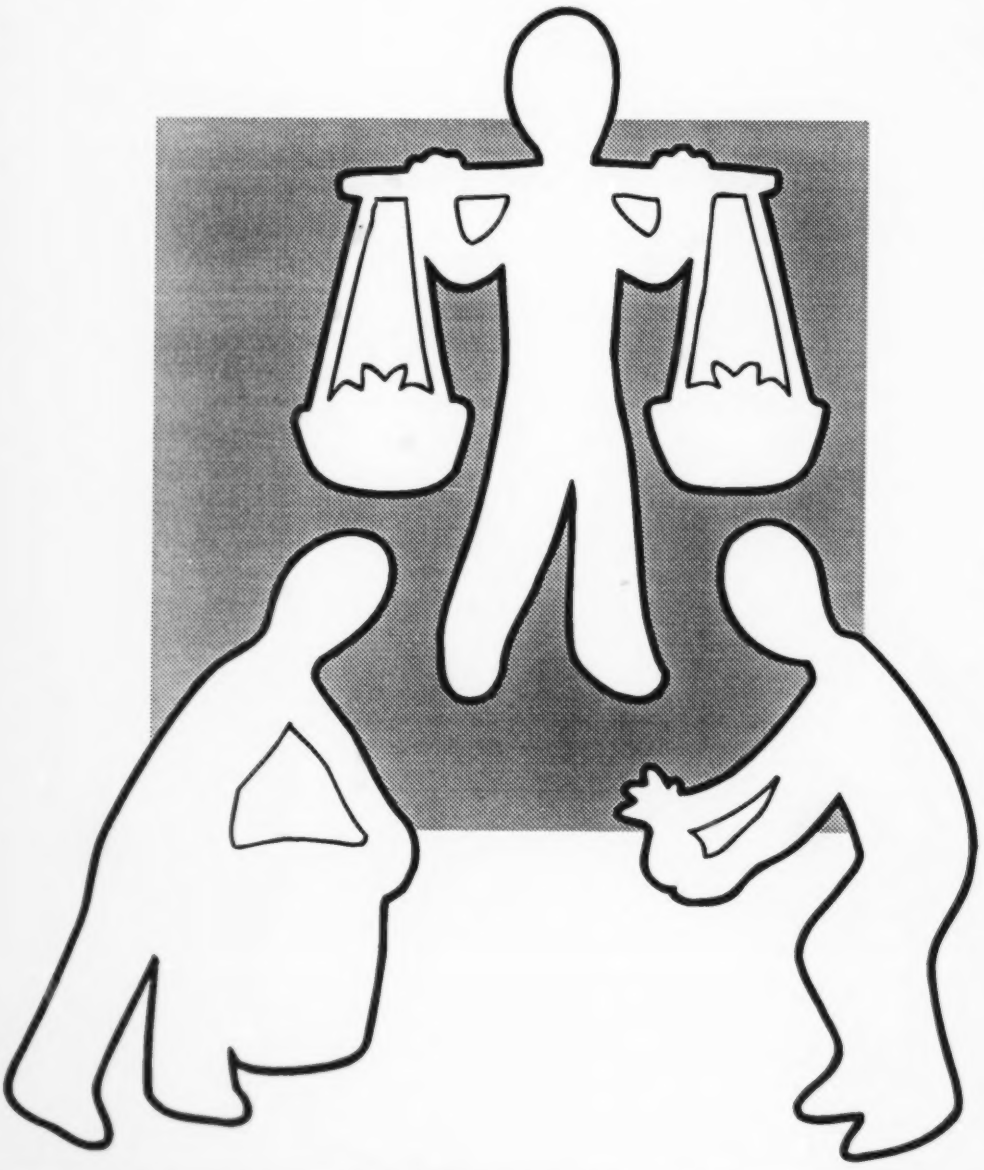
India

Baisakhi

Baisakhi is a harvest and New Year celebration in northern India. Both men and women participate in a joyful folk dance to celebrate the harvest. The dance movements reflect the harvest process.

Introduce your class to music from India. Then demonstrate harvest movements for your students to perform to the music.



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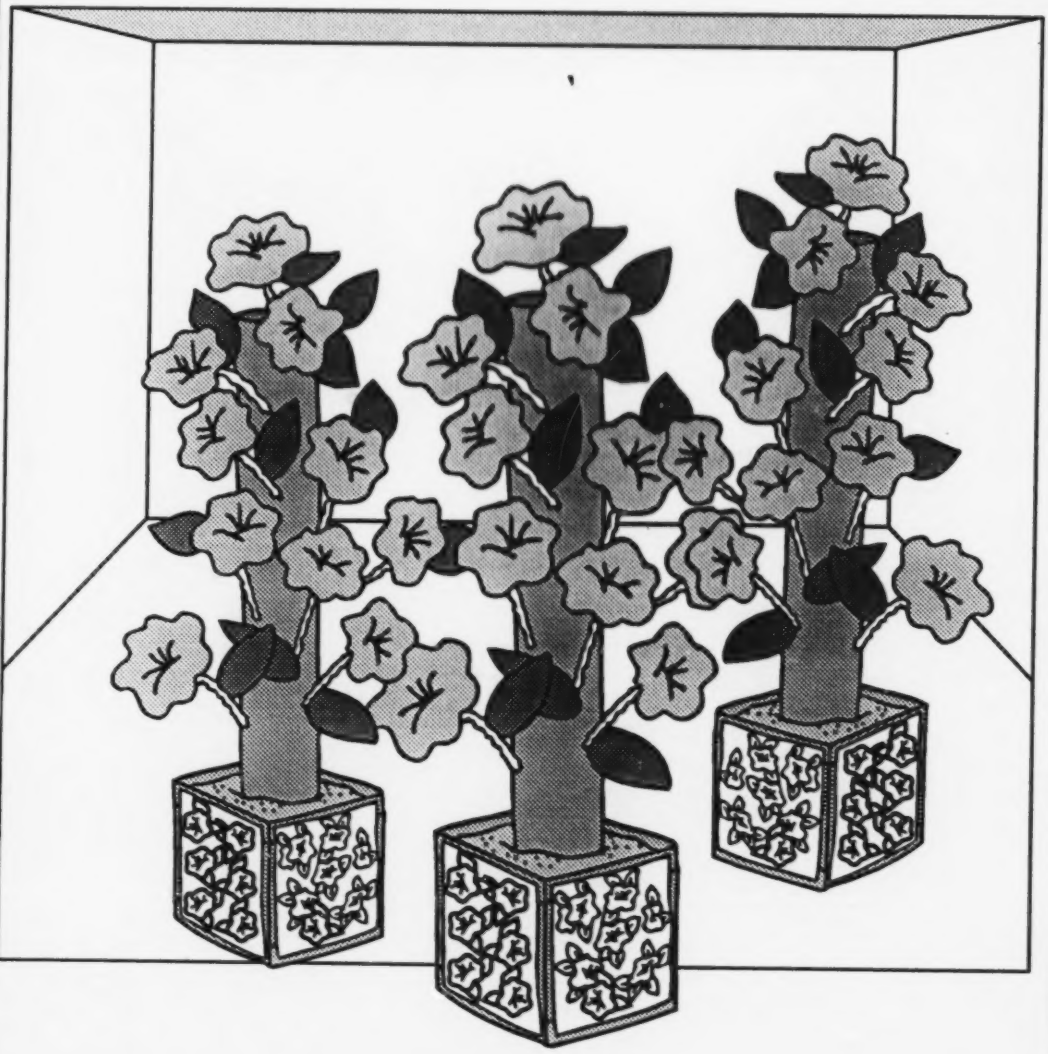
Japan

Cherry Blossom Festival

In Japan, Cherry Blossom Festivals occur during March. Because Japan's climate differs from north to south, trees bloom and festivals are enjoyed during the entire month.

Transform your classroom into a garden filled with cherry blossom trees in full bloom. Ask children to bring paper towel rolls and gift wrap tubes to school. Provide empty milk containers, sand, the directions and patterns on page 43 for students to assemble their cherry trees.



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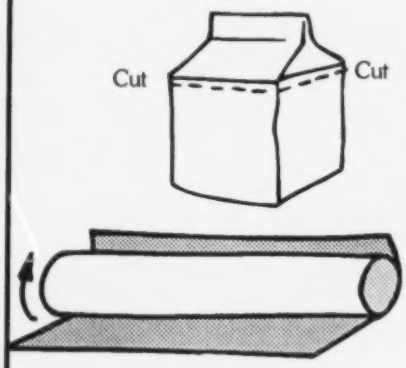
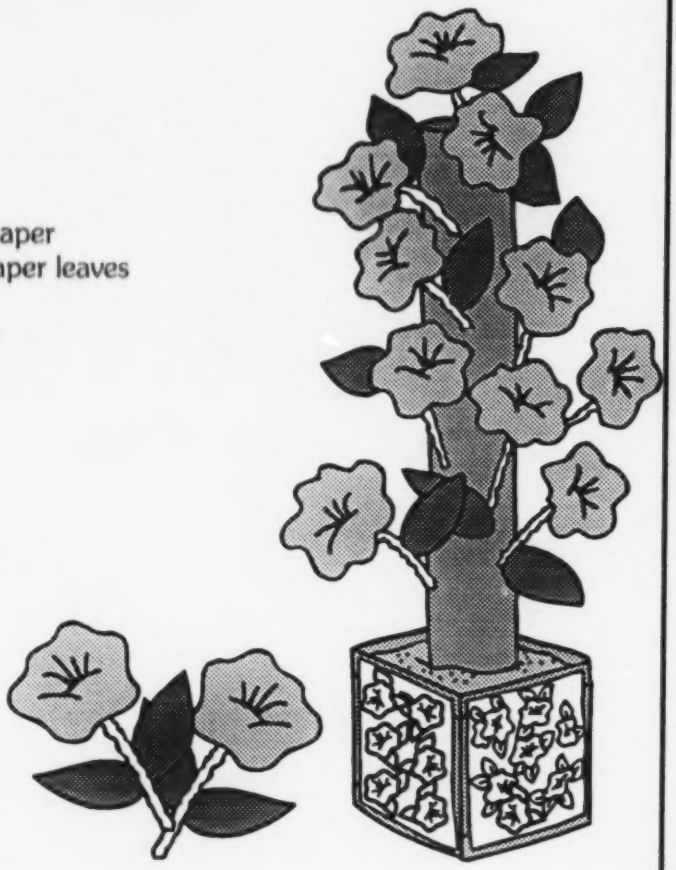
Cherry Blossom Trees

Materials

paper towel
crayons or markers
scissors
glue
cellophane tape
pipe cleaners
brown construction paper
green construction paper leaves
sand
empty milk container





Directions

1. Color and cut out the patterns.
2. Glue blossoms and leaves on pipe cleaners.
3. Wrap brown construction paper around a paper towel roll to form a tree trunk.
4. Glue pipe cleaner blossoms to the tree trunk and reinforce with tape.
5. Cut off the top and glue the blossom squares around a milk carton.
6. Place the tree trunk in the center of the carton.
7. Pour sand and glue around the trunk.
8. Adjust the blossoms on your tree.

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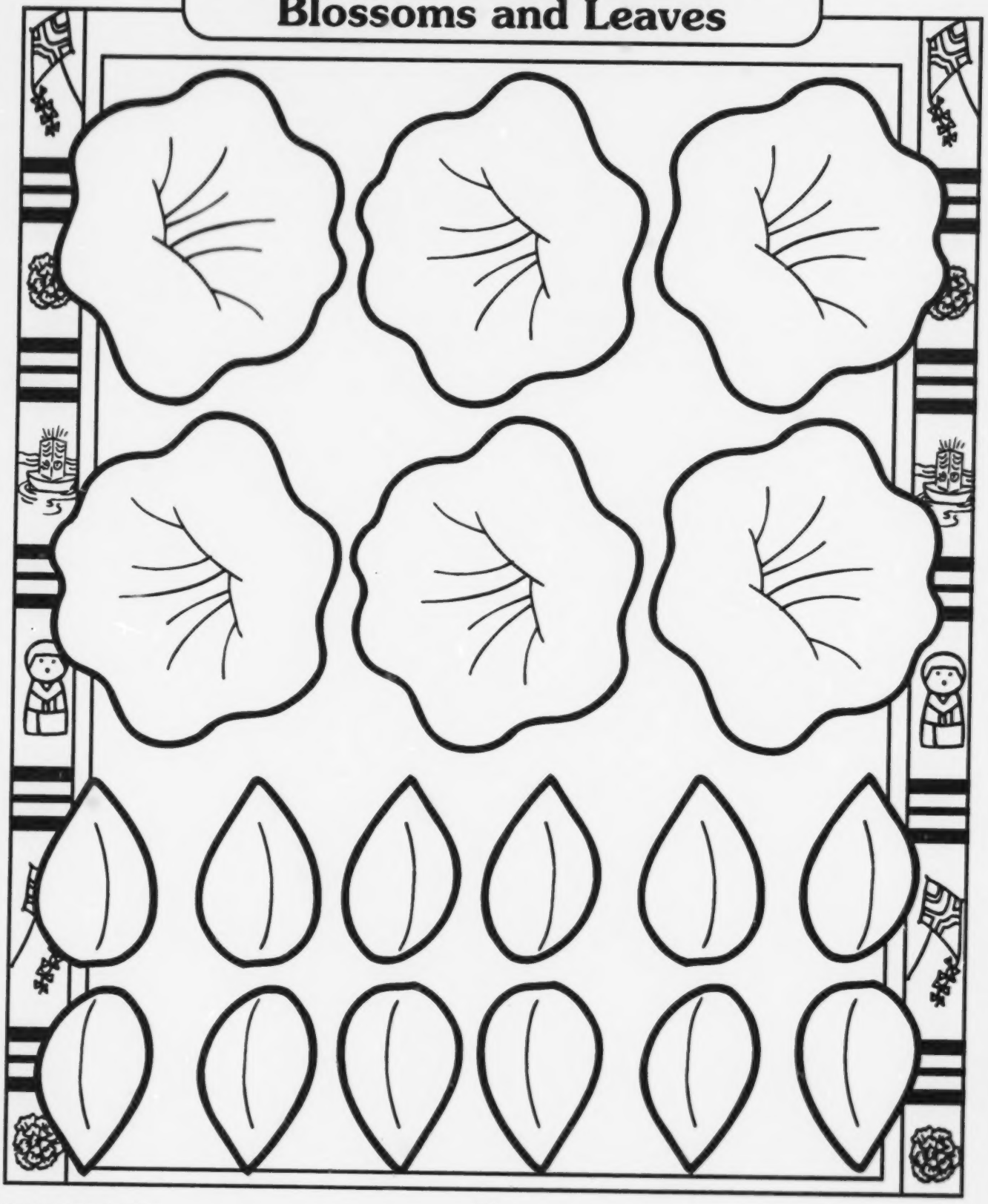
Blossoms and Leaves



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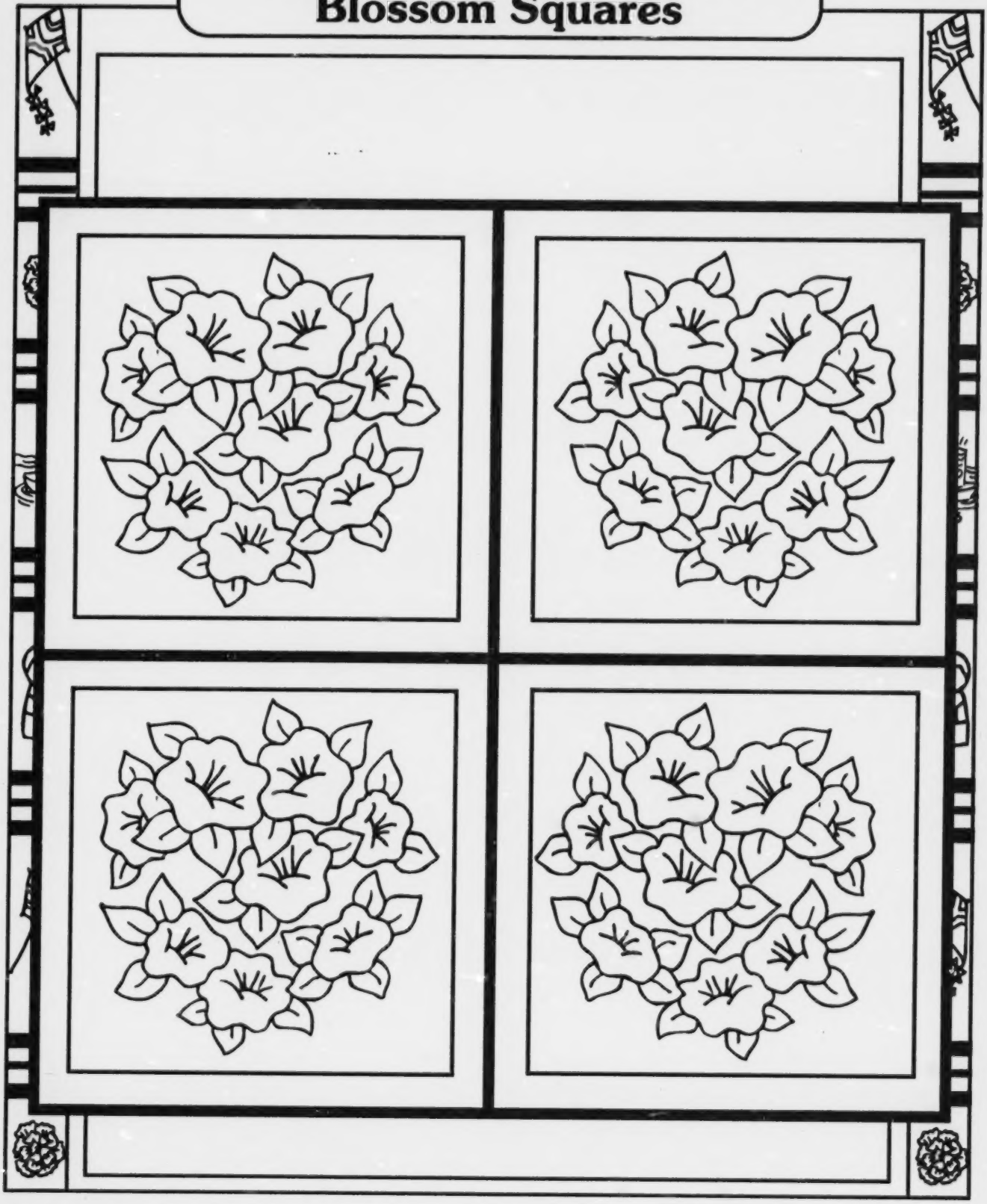
Blossom Squares



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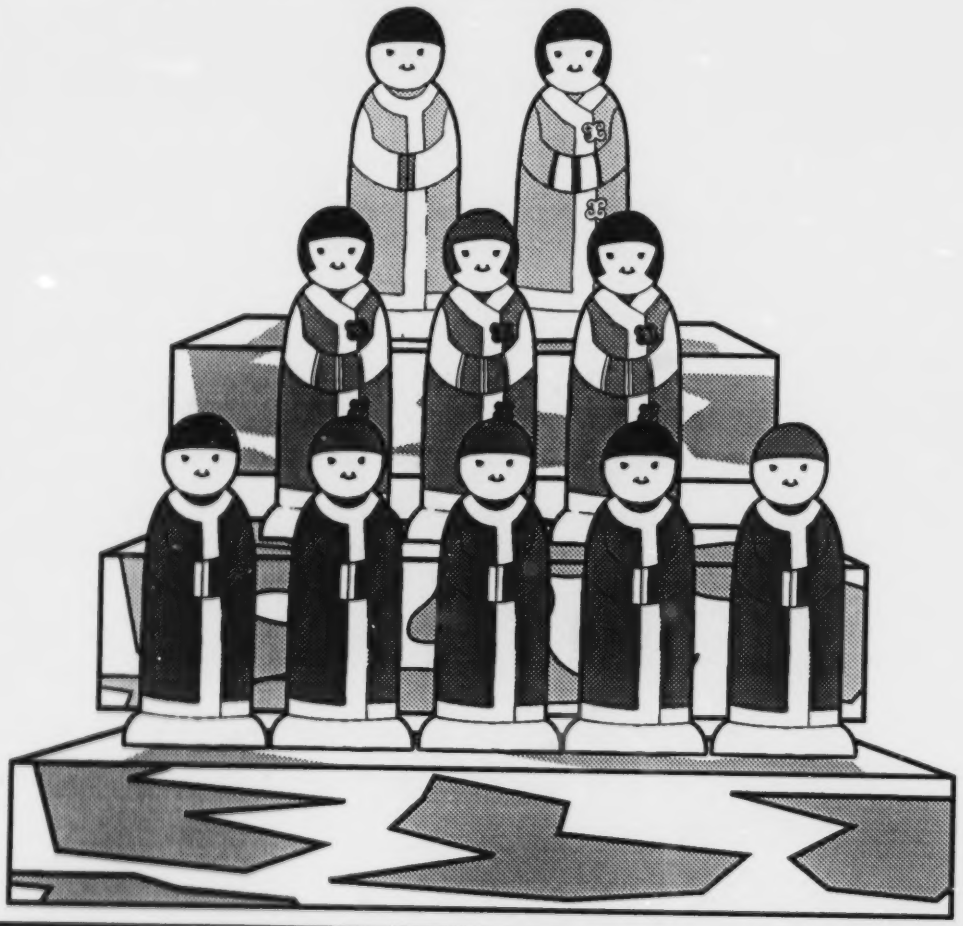
Doll's Day in Japan

Doll's Day or *Hina Matsuri* is celebrated by young girls early in the month of March. On this day, dolls are taken out of storage, carefully unwrapped, and displayed as if in a museum.

The dolls are displayed on a series of steps representing an ancient Japanese court. At least three and as many as seven tiered steps are used for the display.

Every doll display includes a prince and a princess on the first step. Three maids of honor and five musicians are displayed on the second step.

When the displays are completed, young girls all over Japan prepare make-believe meals to serve to the guests. Parents and guests attend wearing their best clothes. The guests share special dumplings and beverages and wish their little hostess good health.



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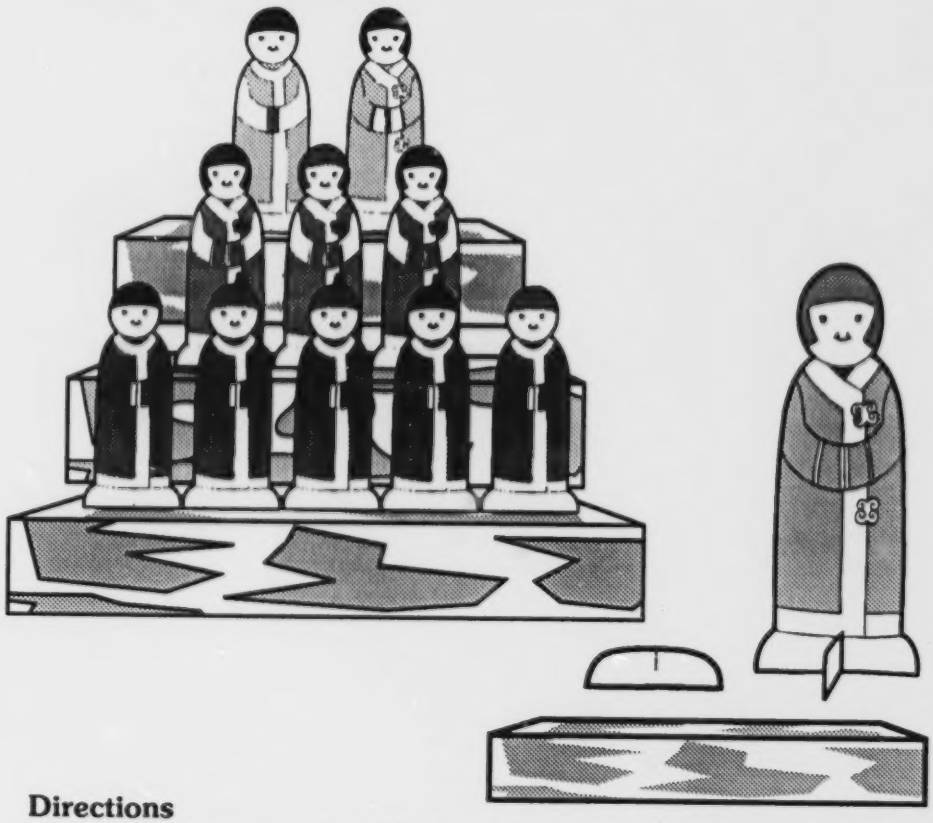
A Spring Doll Exhibit

Prepare an area in your classroom for students to display paper dolls in honor of Japan's festival Hina Matsuri.

Use the take-home note on page 63 to ask parents to send empty shoe boxes for students to make display steps and to invite parents to share a snack with the class after all the displays are complete. Provide each child with a shoe box, construction and wallpaper scraps, crayons, markers, scissors, and glue. Then reproduce the doll patterns on page 48 for students to make free-standing dolls to complete a spring doll exhibit. Students may choose to use the paper doll patterns as templates to create their own designs.



Directions

1. Cover and decorate a shoe box with crayons, markers, construction and wallpaper scraps.
2. Color and cut out the doll and stand patterns.
3. Cut a slit at the bottom of each doll and stand.
4. Assemble the dolls as shown.
5. Display your dolls on the decorated shoe box step.

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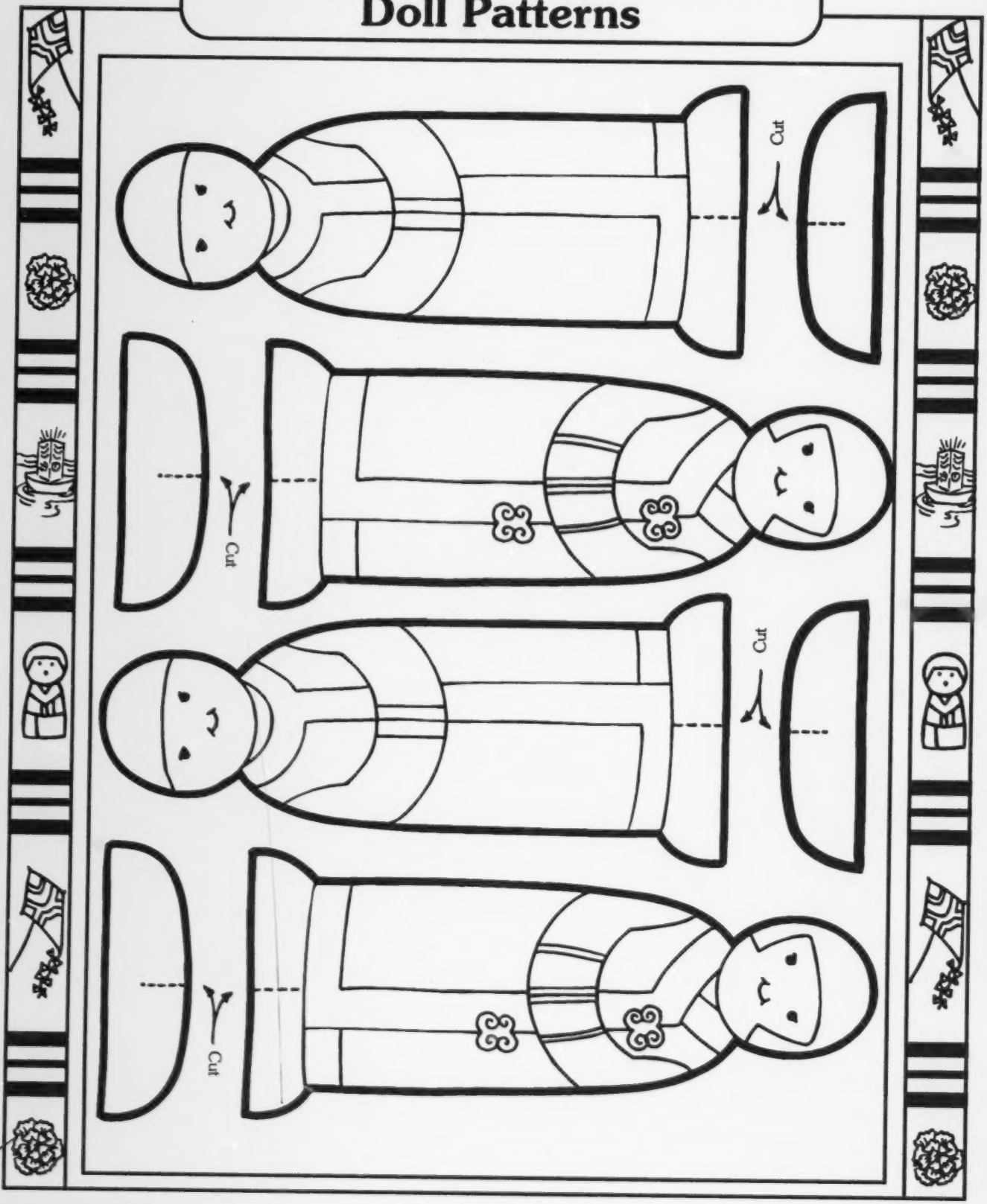
Doll Patterns



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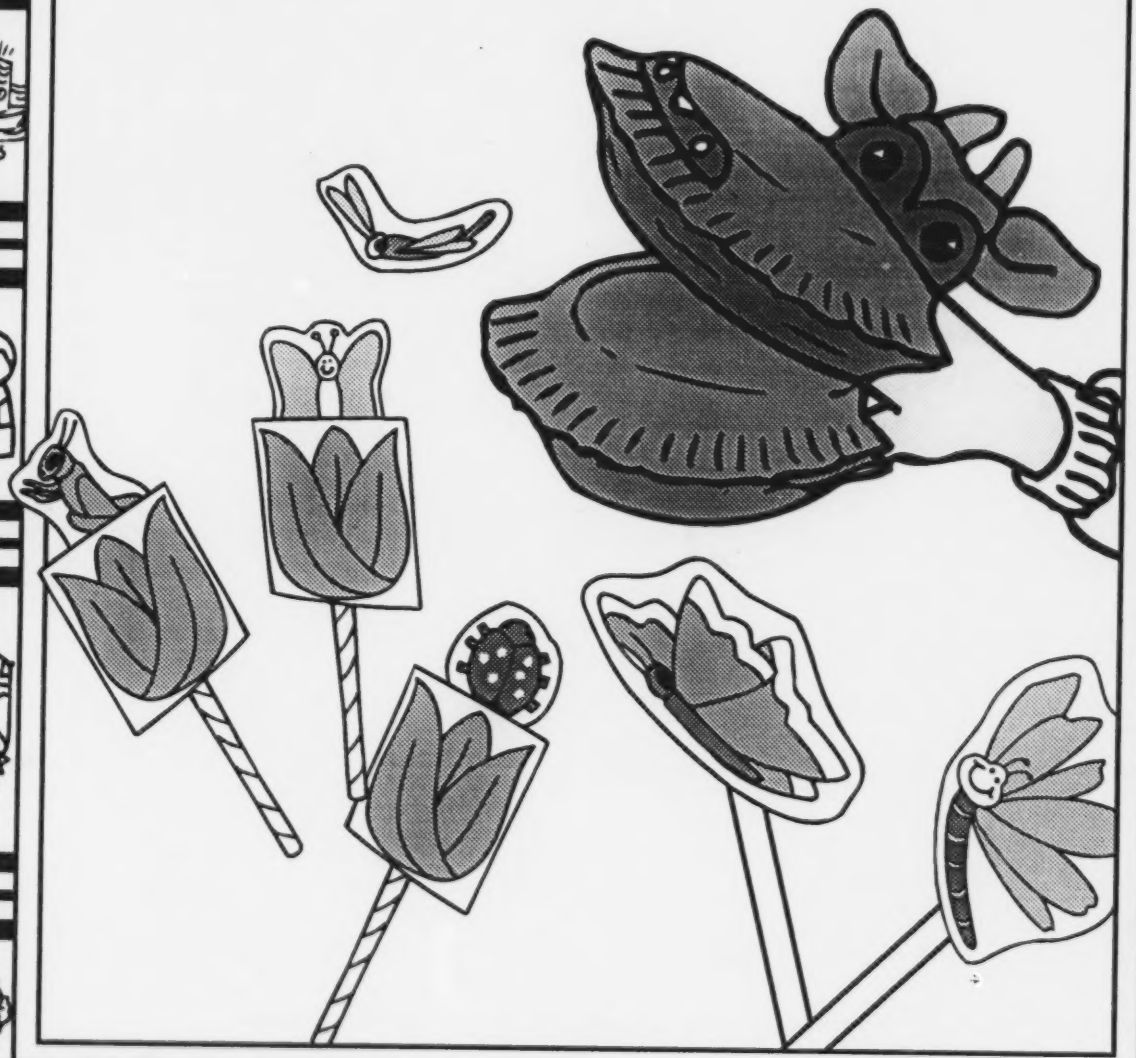
Call of the Dragon

China

China celebrates *Ching Che*, the first day of spring and the awakening of the insects. Legend tells of a tiny creature that goes to sleep in September. It sleeps all winter long and when it awakens in the spring it is gigantic. It calls to the insects to wake up.

Call of the Dragon Puppets

Invite your students to make pop-up insect puppets to answer the dragon's wake-up call. Color and cut out the dragon puppet on page 51. Provide students with the materials listed on page 50 and the patterns on pages 52-53 to make their puppets.



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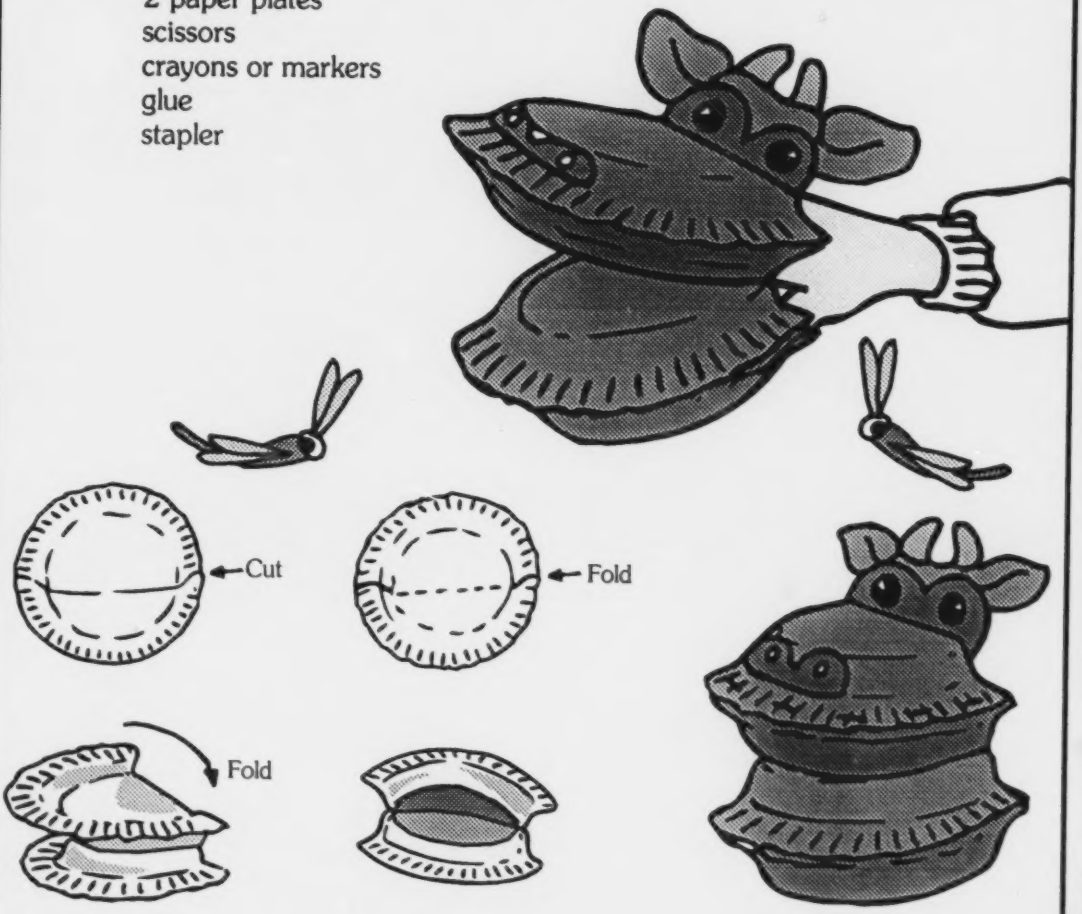
Dragon Puppet

Materials

2 paper plates
scissors
crayons or markers
glue
stapler



Directions

1. Paint two paper plates green.
2. Cut one paper plate in half.
3. Fold the second paper plate in half.
4. Color and cut out the patterns.
5. Glue the dragon's head and eyes on one of the paper plate halves.
6. Then staple it to the folded paper plate as shown.
7. Staple the remaining paper plate half as shown.
8. Use the dragon to call for your students' attention or to lead a class sing-along.

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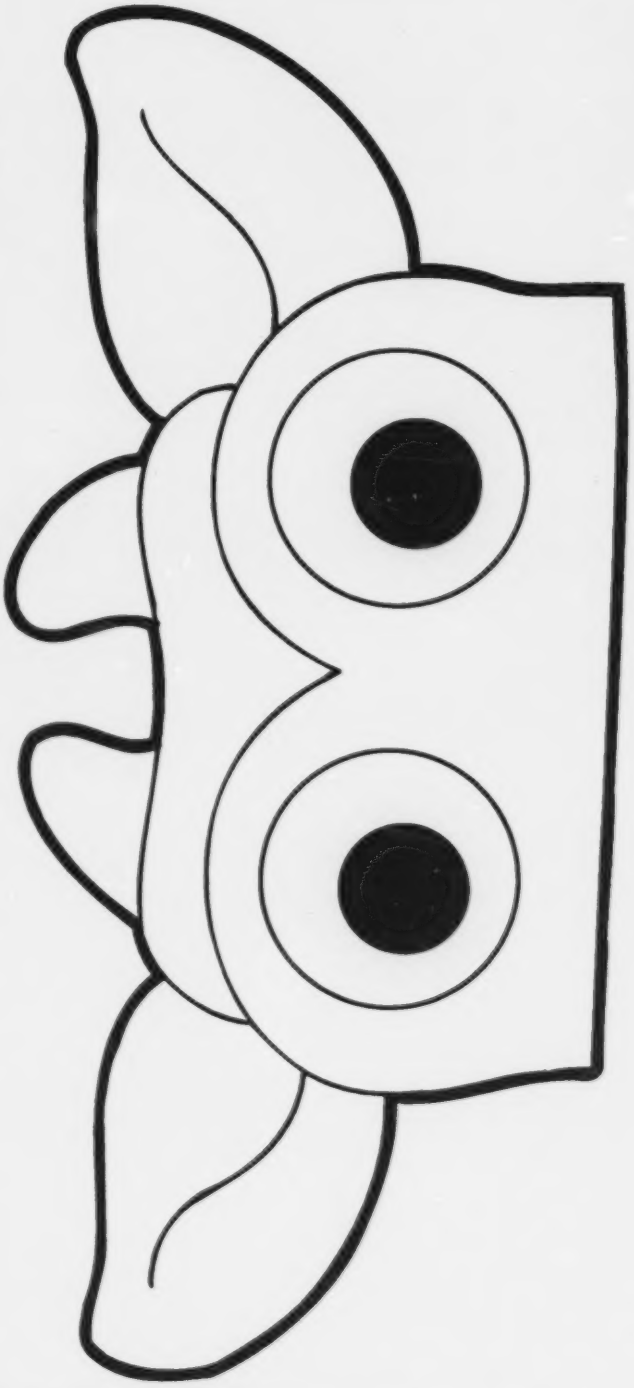
Dragon Puppet Patterns



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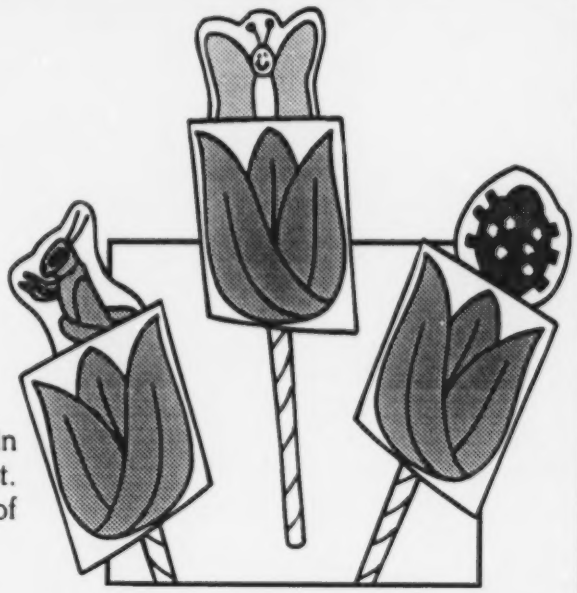
Pop-up Insect Puppets



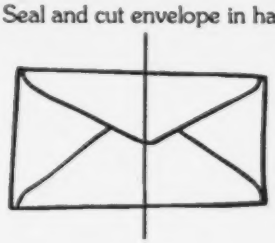
Materials

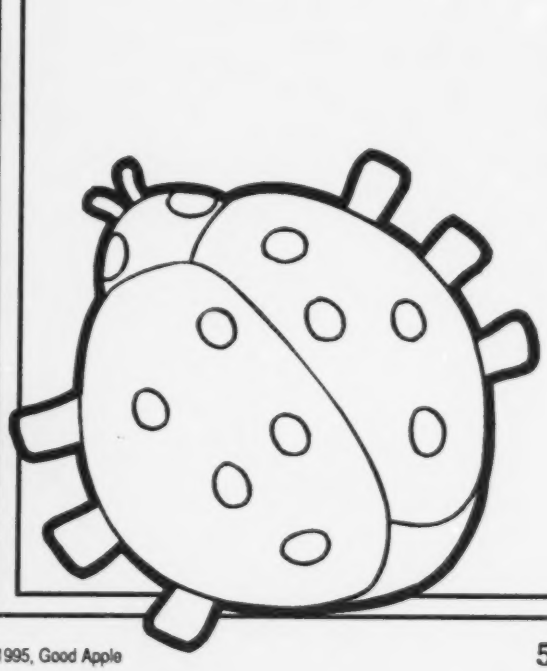
letter envelope
scissors
crayons or markers
plastic straw
glue
cellophane tape

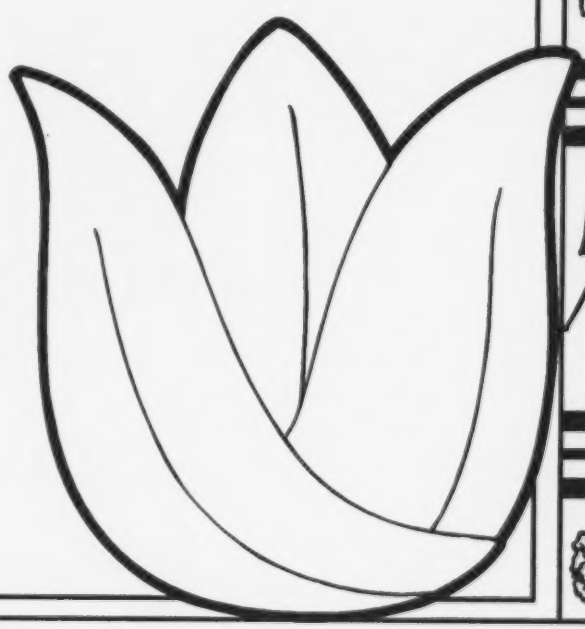
Directions

1. Seal and cut an envelope in half as shown to form a pocket.
2. Cut a notch in the bottom of the envelope large enough insert a straw.
3. Color and cut out the patterns.
4. Glue the leaf pattern on the envelope.
5. Tape a straw to the back of each insect.
6. Slide your insect puppet in pocket as shown.

Seal and cut envelope in half.







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Pop-up Insect Patterns

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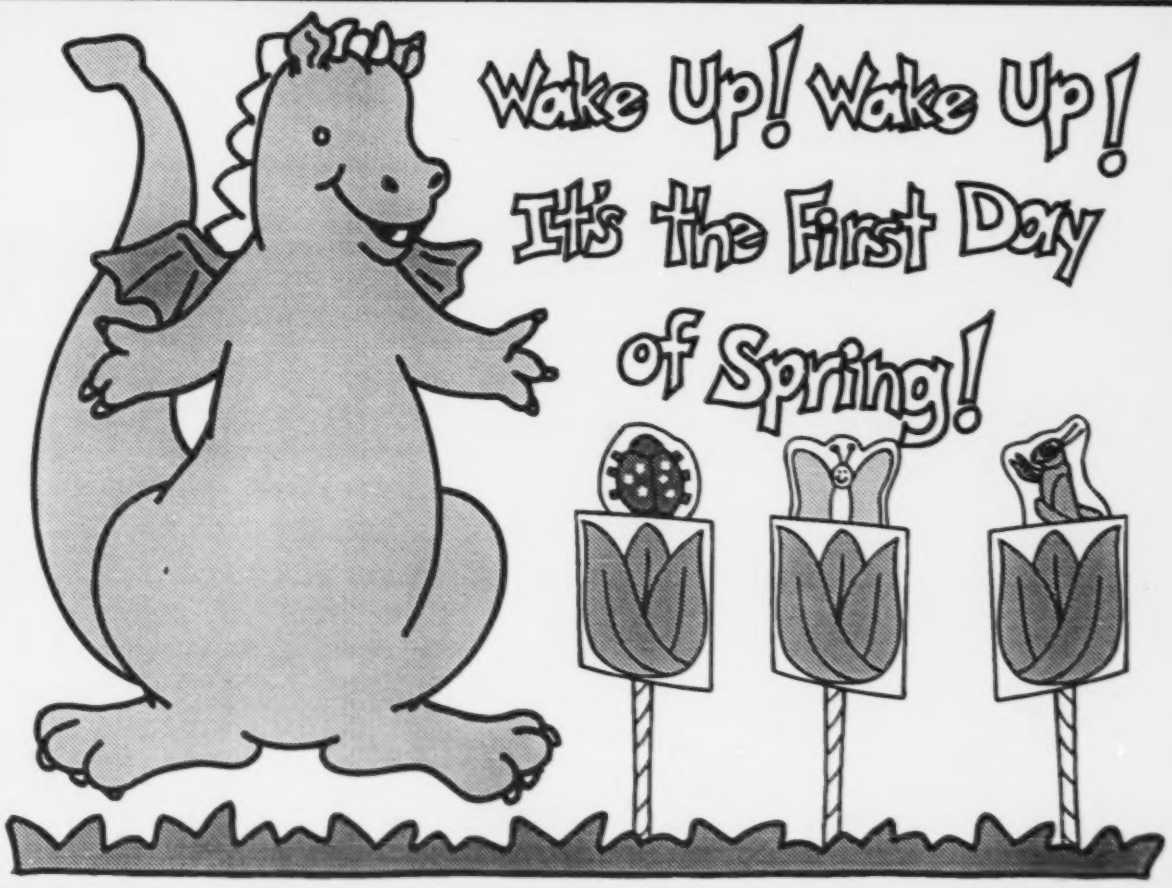
Wake Up! Bulletin Board

Wake Up, Wake Up! Bulletin Board
Enlarge the pattern on page 55 to display on a bulletin board entitled, "Wake Up! Wake Up! It's the First Day of Spring." Store children's pop-up insect puppets on the board for a festive spring display.



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Dragon

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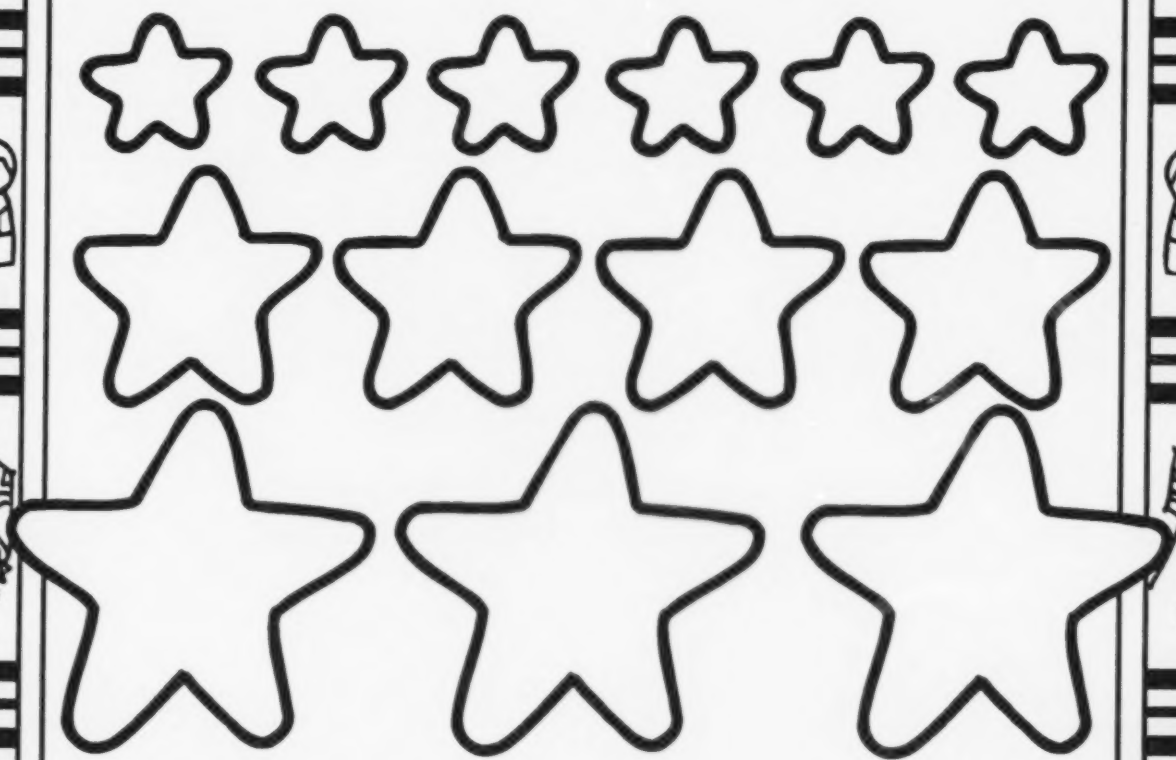
Korea

Buddha's Birthday

In Korea, families visit Buddhist temples in honor of Guatama Buddha's birthday. Colorful paper lanterns are lit in the evening and hung in homes for everyone to enjoy.

During ancient celebrations, the evening curfew was suspended and the gates to the city were left open to allow people to enjoy the lanterns. A variety of lanterns (one for each member of the household) were hung on tall posts and trees.

Create a lantern forest bulletin board to display student-made lanterns. Provide students with the directions and patterns on pages 57-60 to make festive lanterns in honor of Guatama Buddha's birthday.



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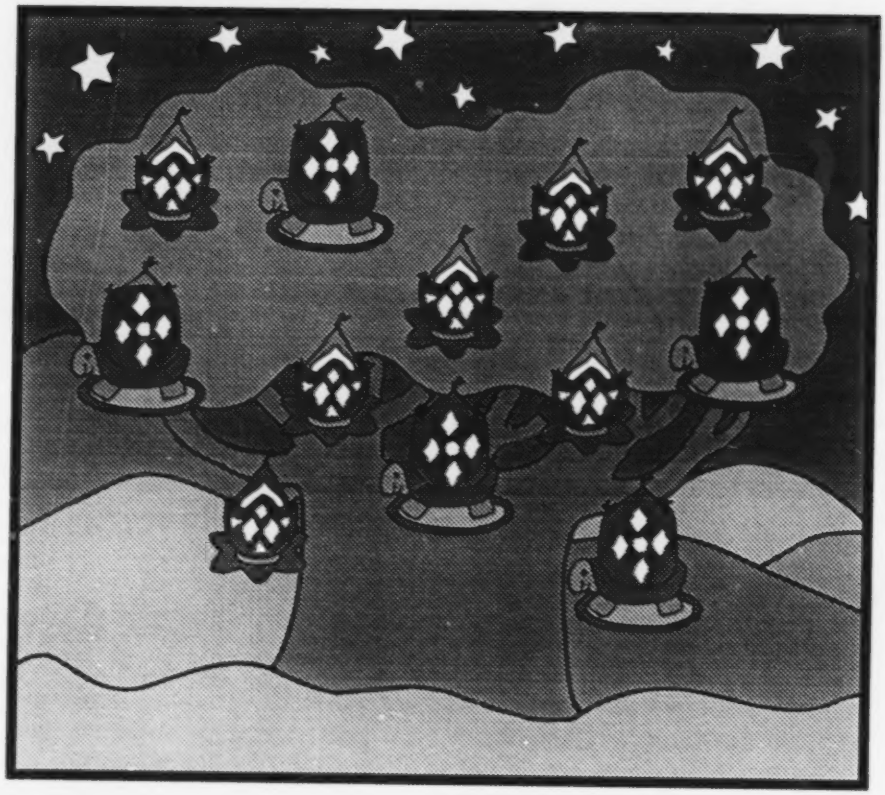
A Lantern Forest

Materials

scissors
paper towel rolls
crayons or markers
yellow and brown construction paper
dark blue and green poster paper
crepe paper



Directions

1. Cover your bulletin board with dark blue paper.
2. Add dark green hills along the bottom of the board.
3. Reproduce and cut out the stars from yellow construction paper.
4. Outline stars with glitter glue and mount in the sky.
5. Draw, cut out, and mount a tree in the center of the board.
6. Hang student-made lanterns on the tree.

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ORNAMENTS & DECORATIONS • KOREA

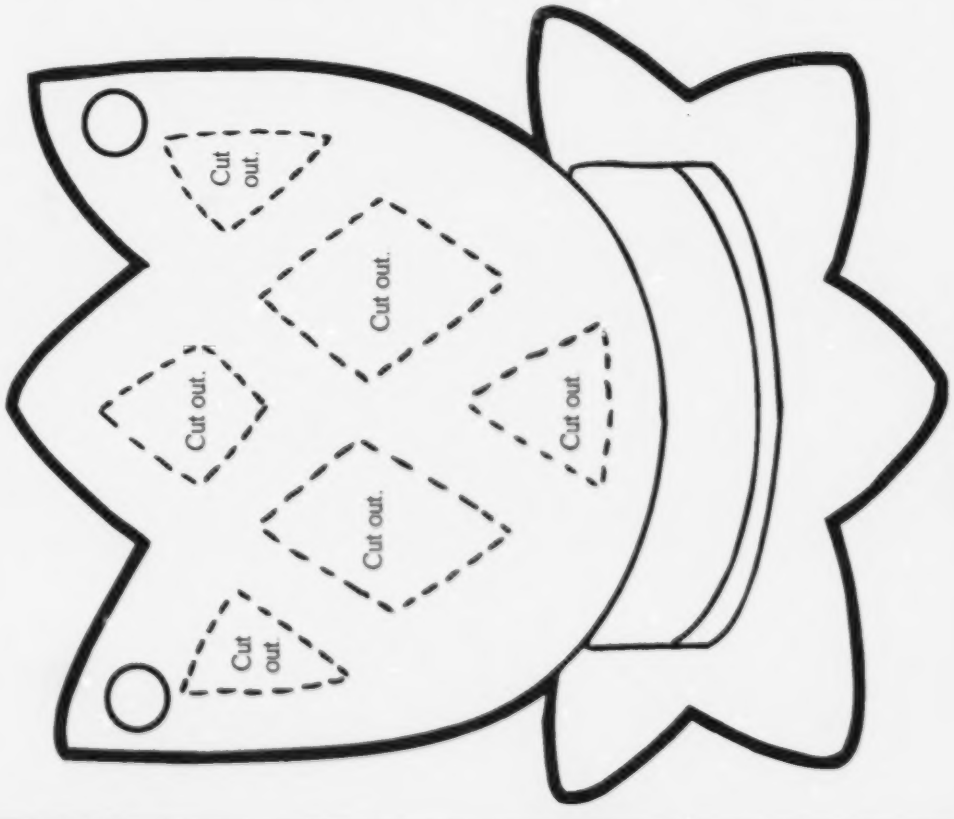
A Lotus Lantern

Materials

scissors
crayons or markers
glue
yarn
hole punch

Directions

1. Color and cut out the patterns.
2. Cut out the dotted shapes on each lantern pattern.
3. Glue the matching insert to the back of each lantern pattern.
4. Write a holiday greeting on the back of each lantern.
5. Punch a hole at each dot.
6. Then lace and tie a length of yarn through each hole as shown.



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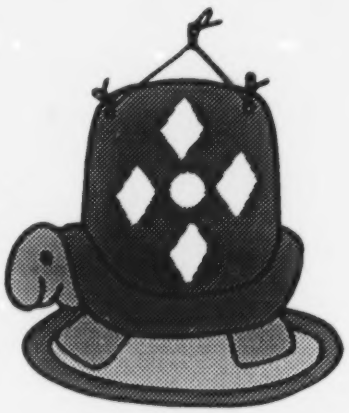
A Tortoise Lantern

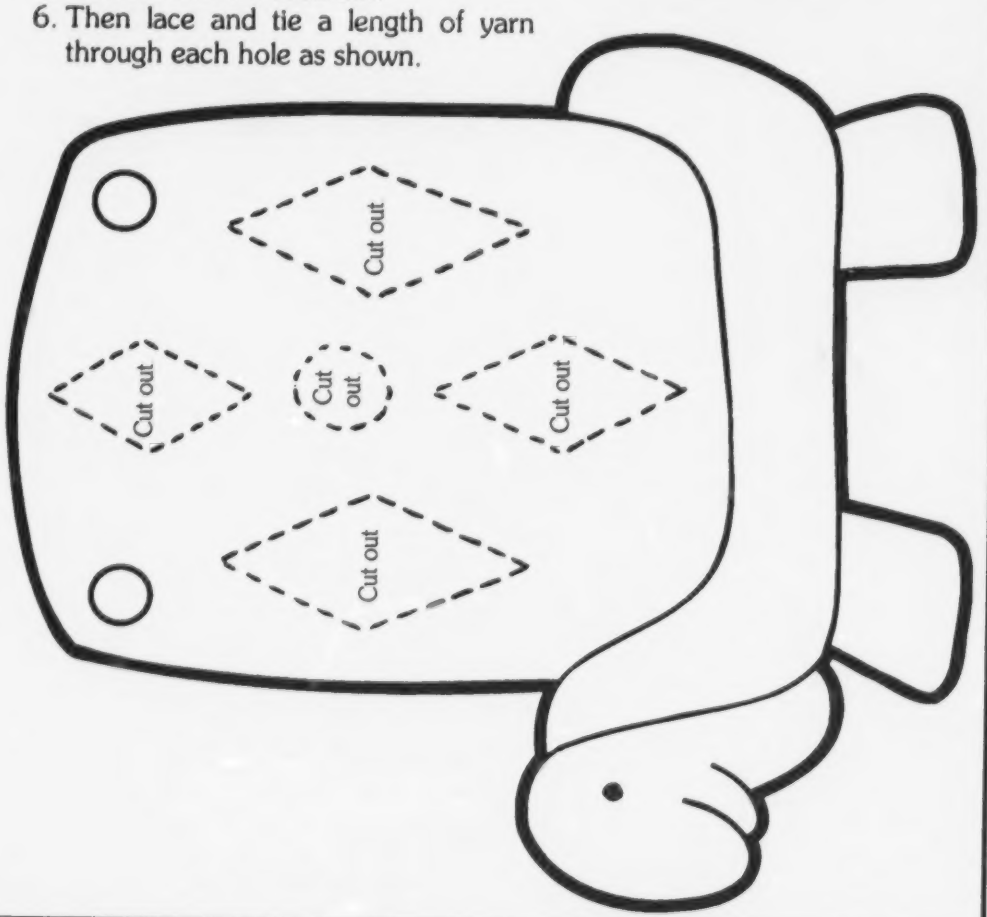
Materials

scissors
crayons or markers
glue
yarn
hole punch



Directions

1. Color and cut out the patterns.
2. Cut out the dotted shapes on each lantern pattern.
3. Glue the matching insert to the back of each lantern pattern.
4. Write a holiday greeting on the back of each lantern.
5. Punch a hole at each dot.
6. Then lace and tie a length of yarn through each hole as shown.



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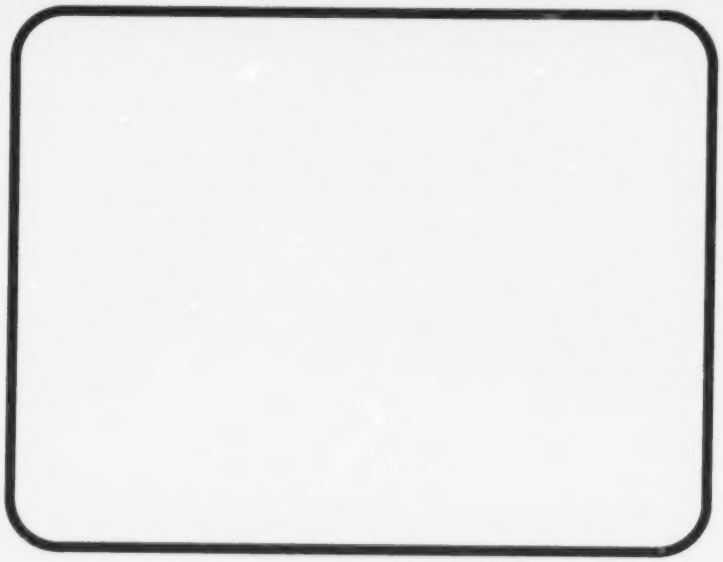
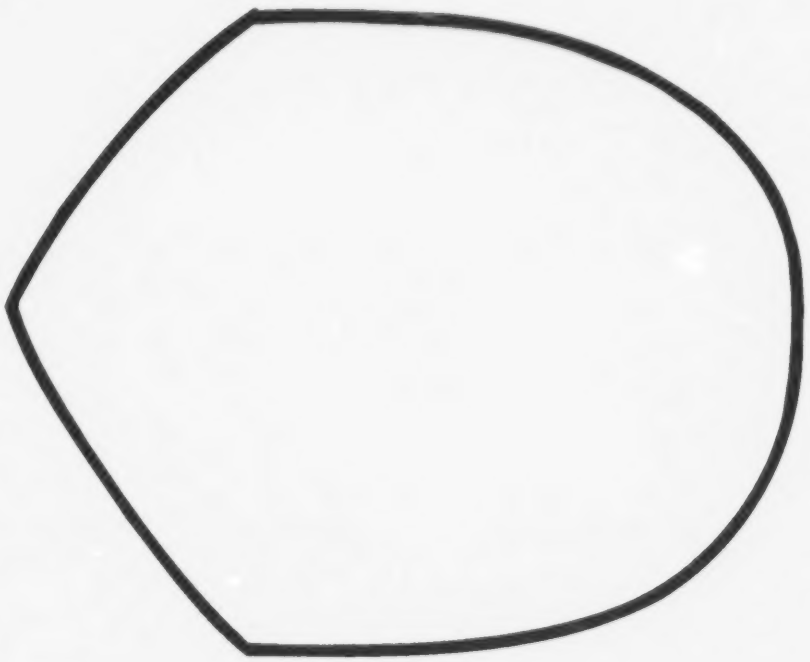
Lantern Inserts



Turtle Lantern Insert



Lotus Lantern Insert

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70

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS & LEGENDS

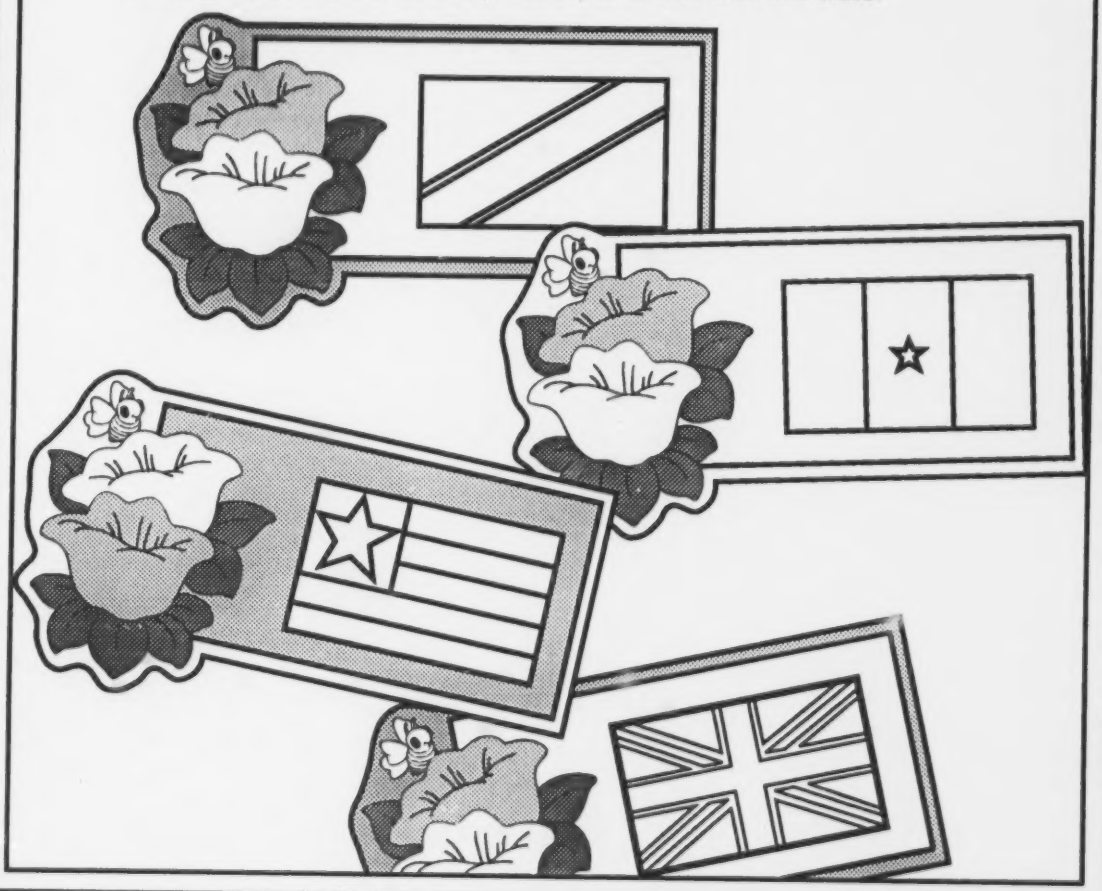
Spring Open House

Malaysia

In Malaysia, the people open their homes for visitations from friends during the festival of *Hari Raya*. The friends that visit are not necessarily of the same culture. In return, Malaysians are invited to attend celebrations in friends' homes of other cultures. This custom became popular many years ago and continues to be a favorite tradition. It allows people of different cultures to share and learn about each other's unique cultural traditions.

Reproduce the flag patterns on pages 155-184. Provide each child with a flag and spring open house banner to color and cut out. Display the flags around your classroom. You can also punch a hole on short sides of each banner and string with yarn to make an attractive flag garland.

Use the take-home note on page 63 to invite parents to an international Hari Raya festival. Ask parent volunteers to participate in the festival by sharing unique cultural foods, stories, or music with the class.



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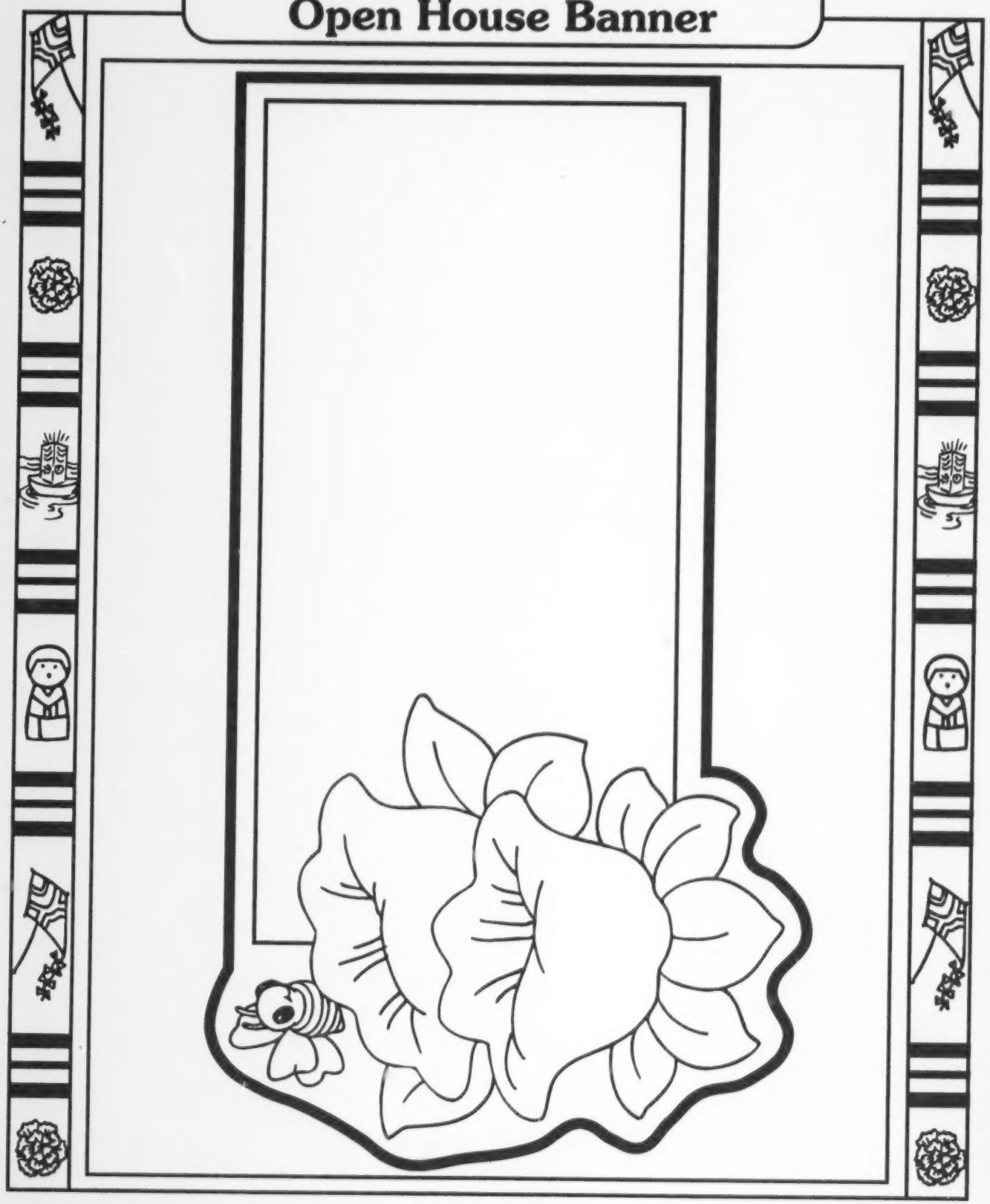
ORNAMENTS & DECORATIONS

Open House Banner



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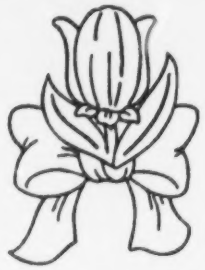
A TAKE-HOME NOTE FROM
ASIA



_____

Date

Dear _____,

We are _____

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Please _____

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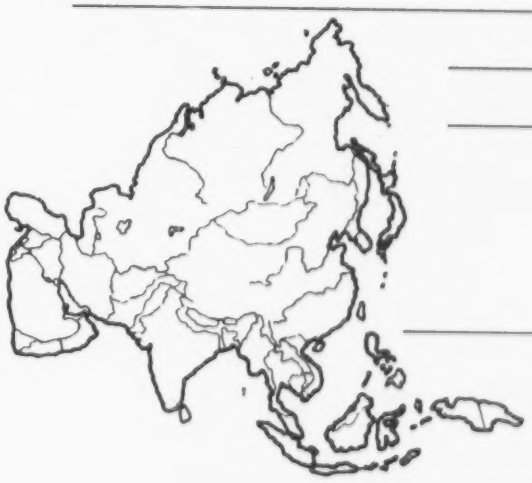

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_____

Thank you!

_____

Teacher

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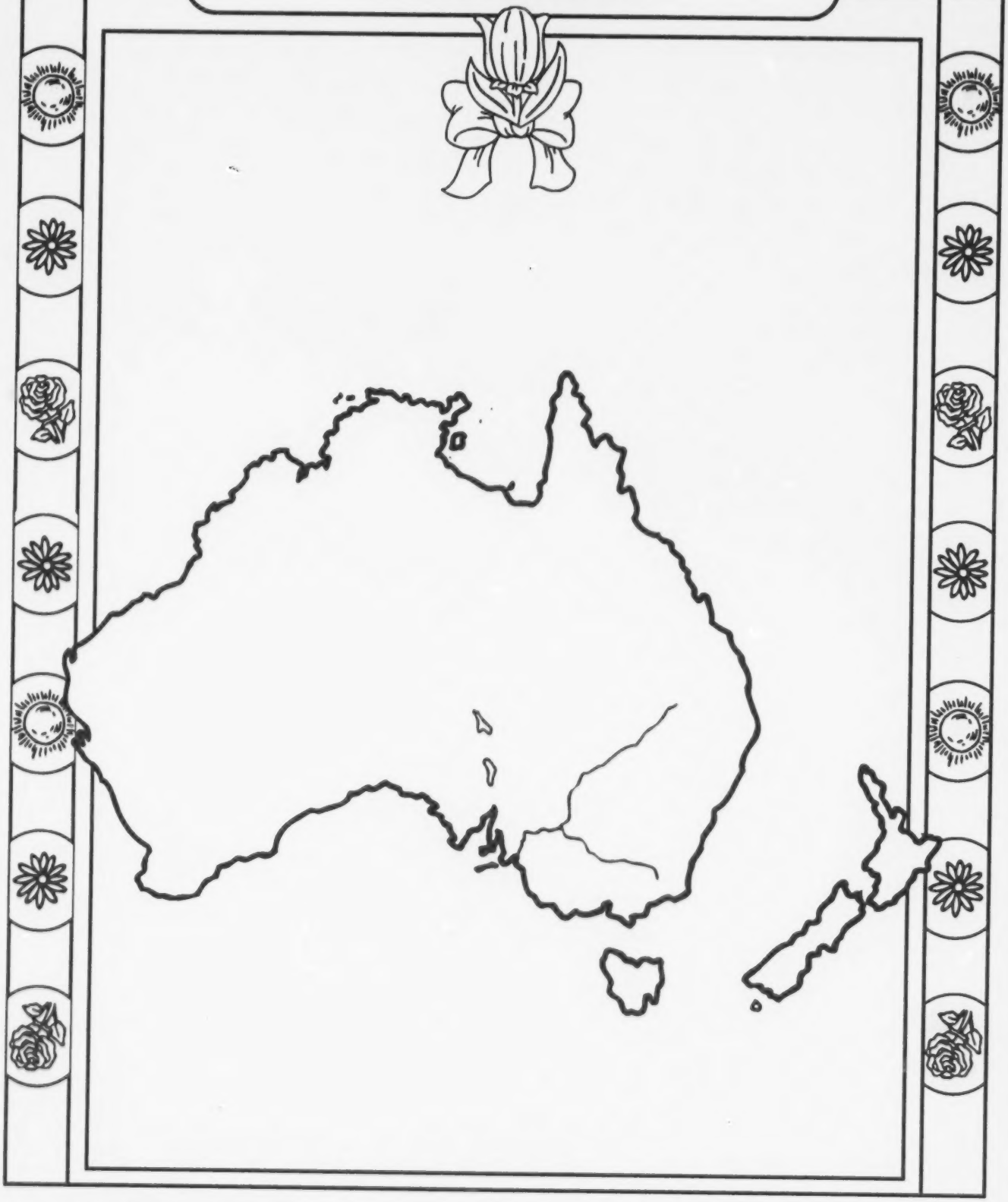
AUSTRALIA



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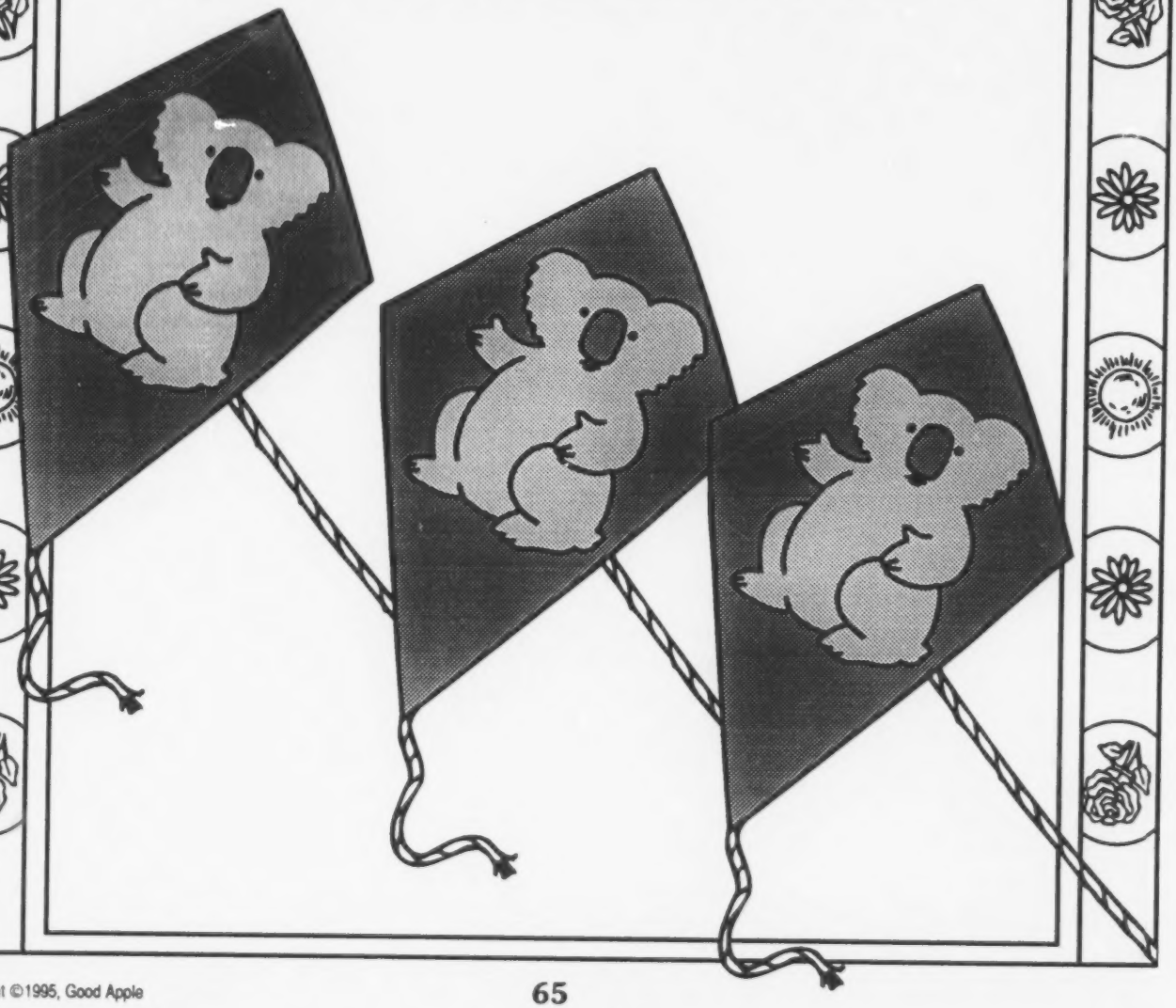
HOLIDAY TRADITIONS & LEGENDS • AUSTRALIA

Springfest Down Under

Australians celebrate spring in much the same manner as Great Britain and other countries around the world. It is a time to share nature's promise of new beginnings. Australians spend most of their recreational time outdoors. And because most of the large cities in Australia are on or near the coast, many of the people visit the beach for vacations and holidays.

Share stories and pictures of Australia with your class. Then provide them with the patterns on pages 66-74 to make a variety of spring projects.

Reduce the koala and kangaroo patterns for children to make stick puppets to use while sharing summer vacation stories with the class.



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Koala Kites

Provide students with the koala pattern on page 67 to decorate handmade decorative kites. Each child will need a 12" x 18" (30 cm x 45 cm) sheet of white butcher or poster paper, yarn, and several plastic straws.

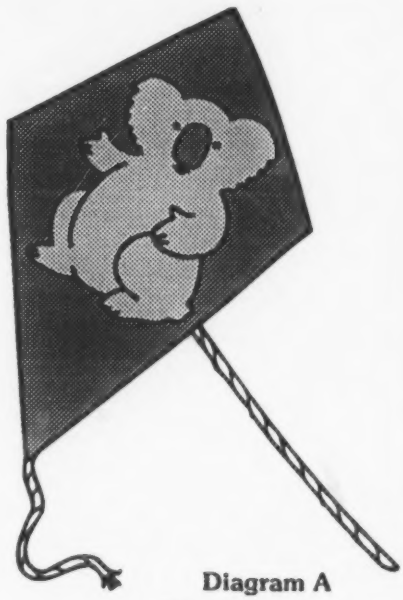
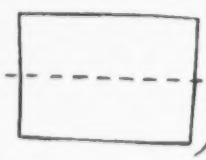


Diagram A

Materials

- crayons or markers
- scissors
- glue
- plastic straws
- 12" x 18" (30 cm x 45 cm) butcher paper
- yarn
- cellophane tape



Fold

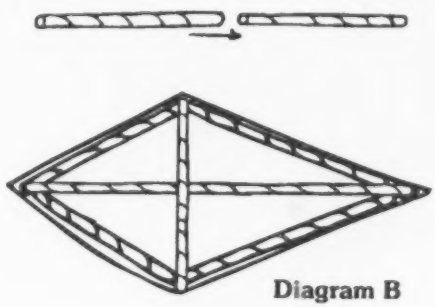
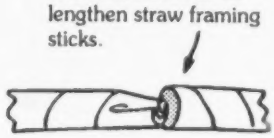


Diagram B

Close up
Pinch end of one straw and insert another to lengthen straw framing sticks.



Directions

1. Color and cut out the patterns.
2. Fold the butcher paper in half and cut the corners as shown to form a kite.
3. Draw a border around the kite.
4. Assemble straw framing sticks (Diagram A) to equal the length of each edge of the kite.
5. Apply a line of glue along the edges of the back of the kite and attach straw framing sticks.
6. Assemble two additional lengths of straws for crossbars (Diagram B).
7. Glue the crossbars to the back of the kite.
8. Glue the koala to the front of the kite and the bows to a 12" (30 cm) length of yarn.
9. Attach a yarn kite string to the back and the tail.

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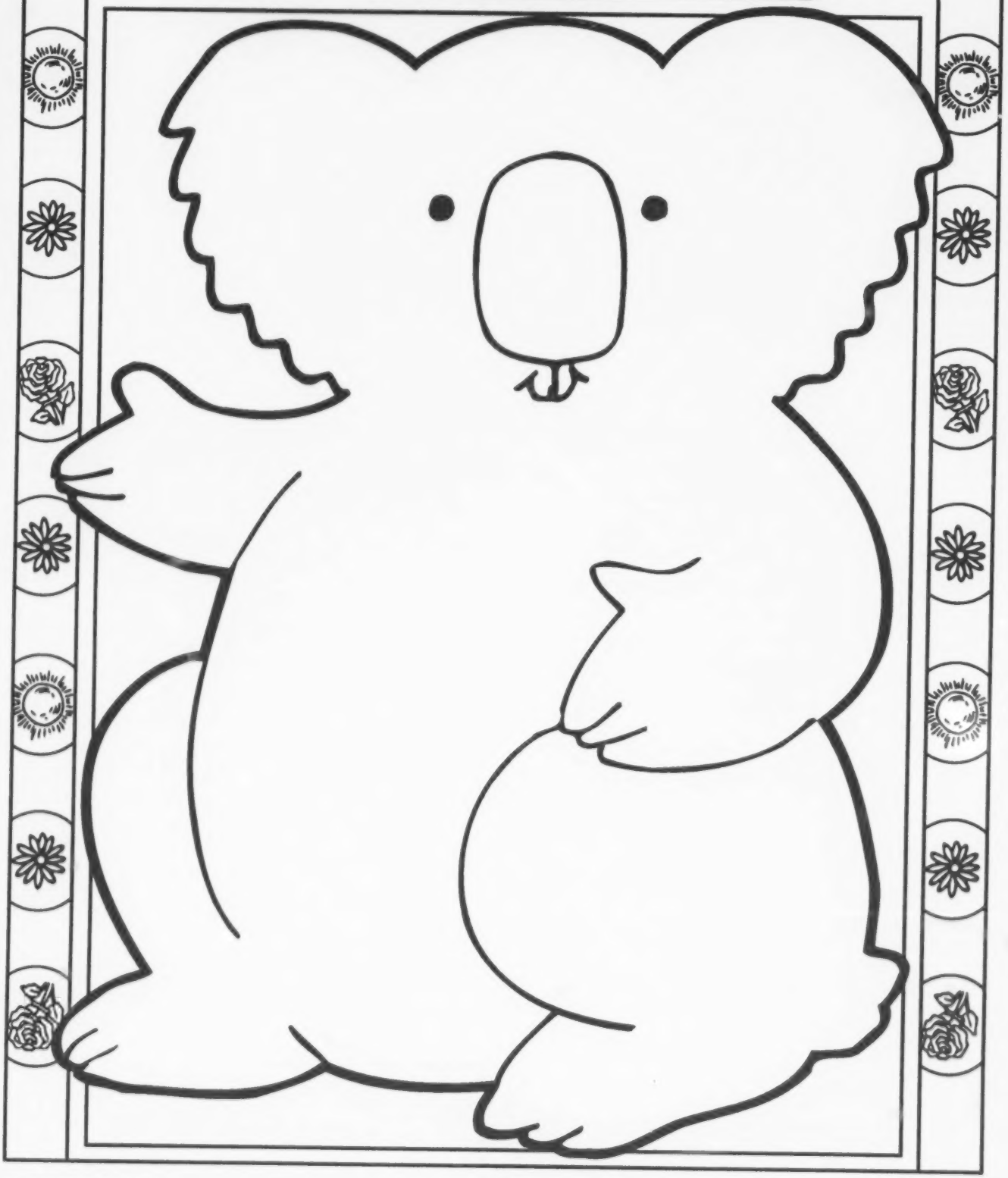
ORNAMENTS & DECORATIONS • AUSTRALIA

Koala Pattern



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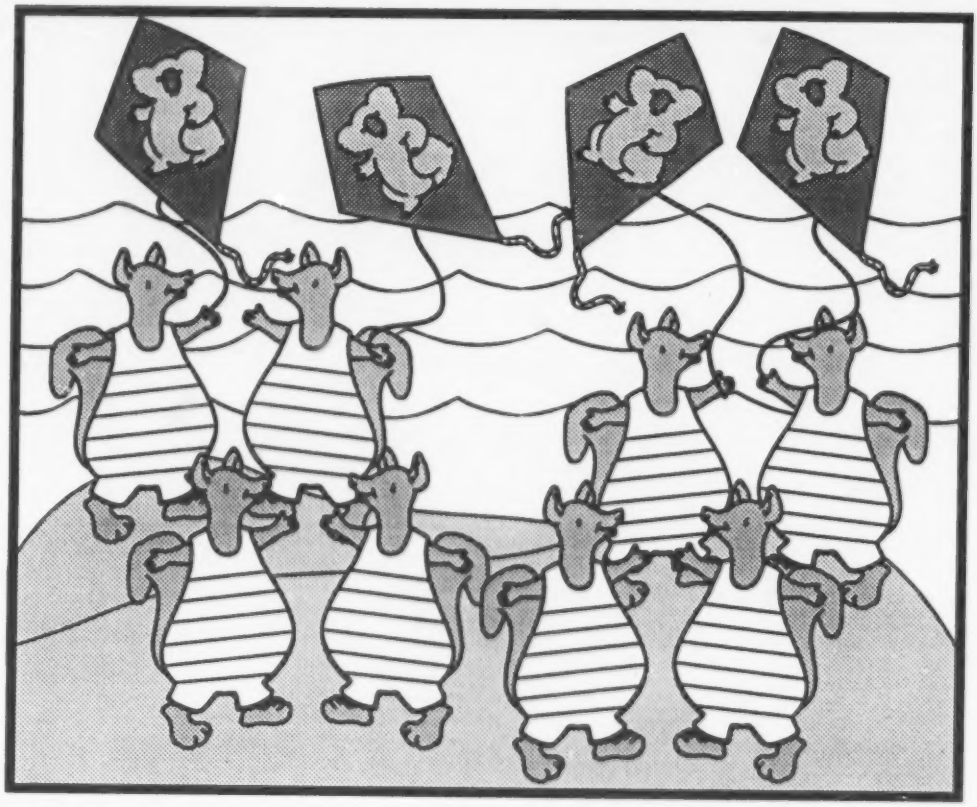
ORNAMENTS & DECORATIONS • AUSTRALIA

An Australian Summerfest

Provide children with the delightful kangaroo beach buddies on pages 69-70 on which to write brief summer vacation stories or story starters to display on a beach scene bulletin board. Also display student koala kites on the board.

Materials

12" x 18" (30 cm x 45 cm) butcher paper
crayons or markers
glue
yarn
scissors
plastic straws
cellophane tape



Directions

1. Color and cut out the patterns.
2. Write a summer vacation story on the manuscript pattern.
3. Apply glue to the back and attach it to your kangaroo bather.
4. Create a beach scene using construction paper waves and sand dunes.
5. Position and glue your kangaroo on the beach.

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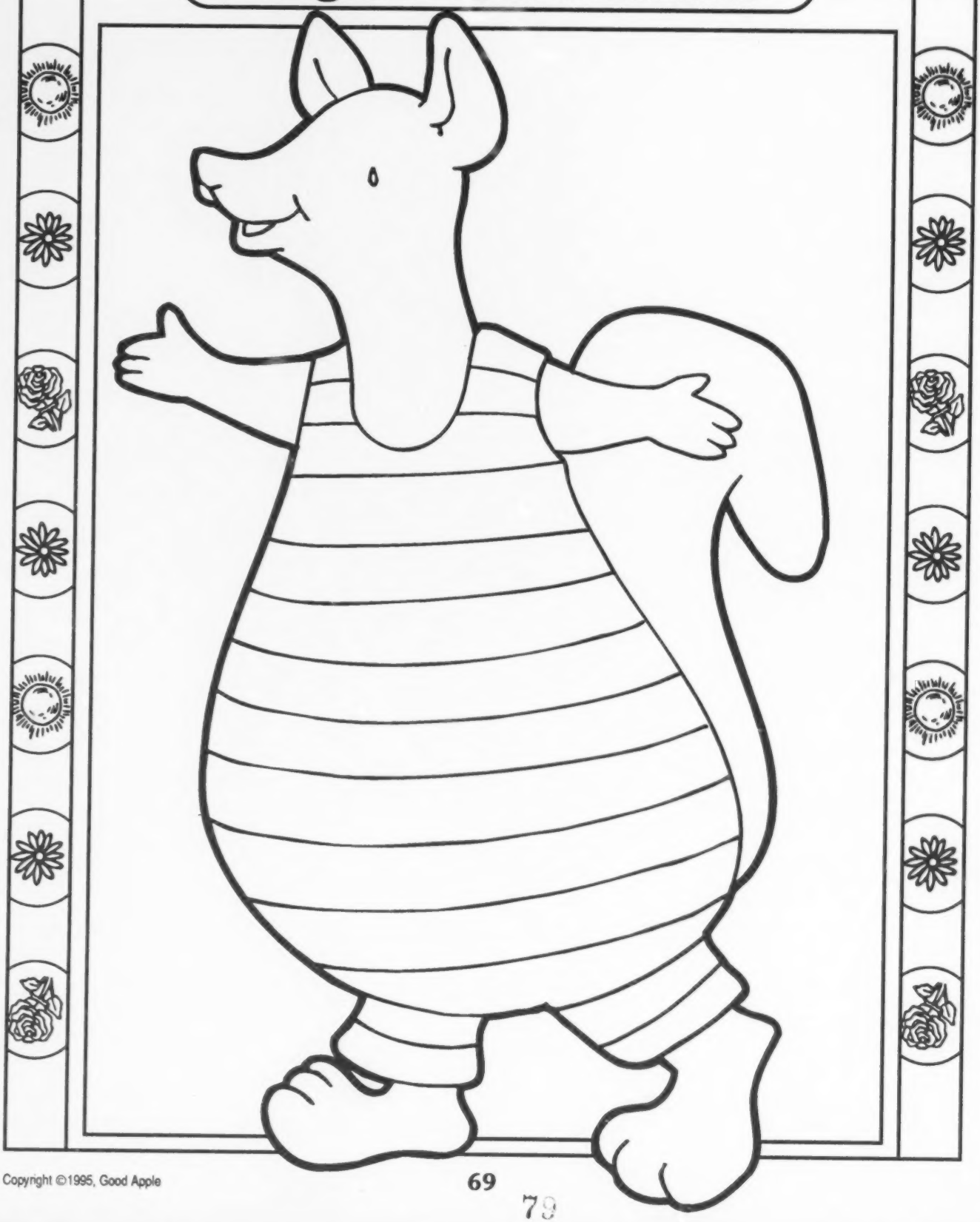
Kangaroo Beach Buddies



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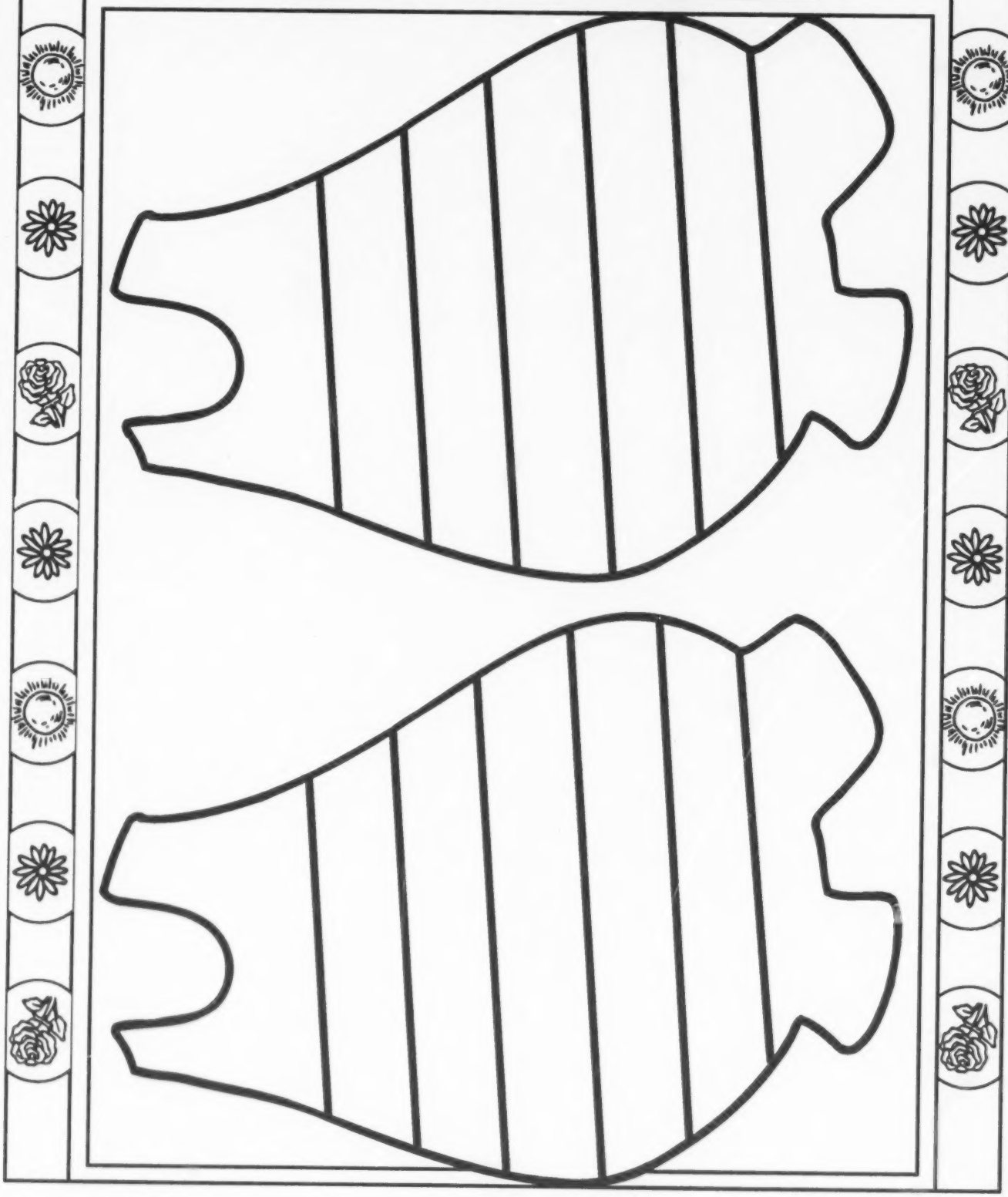
HOLIDAY TRADITIONS & LEGENDS

Kangaroo Beach Buddies



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On the Beach Summer Fun

Enlarge, color, and cut out the patterns on pages 72-74. Display kangaroo mothers and joeys on a summer bulletin board. Program the joeys (baby kangaroos) with alternative skills practice or free-time activities and insert in pouches.

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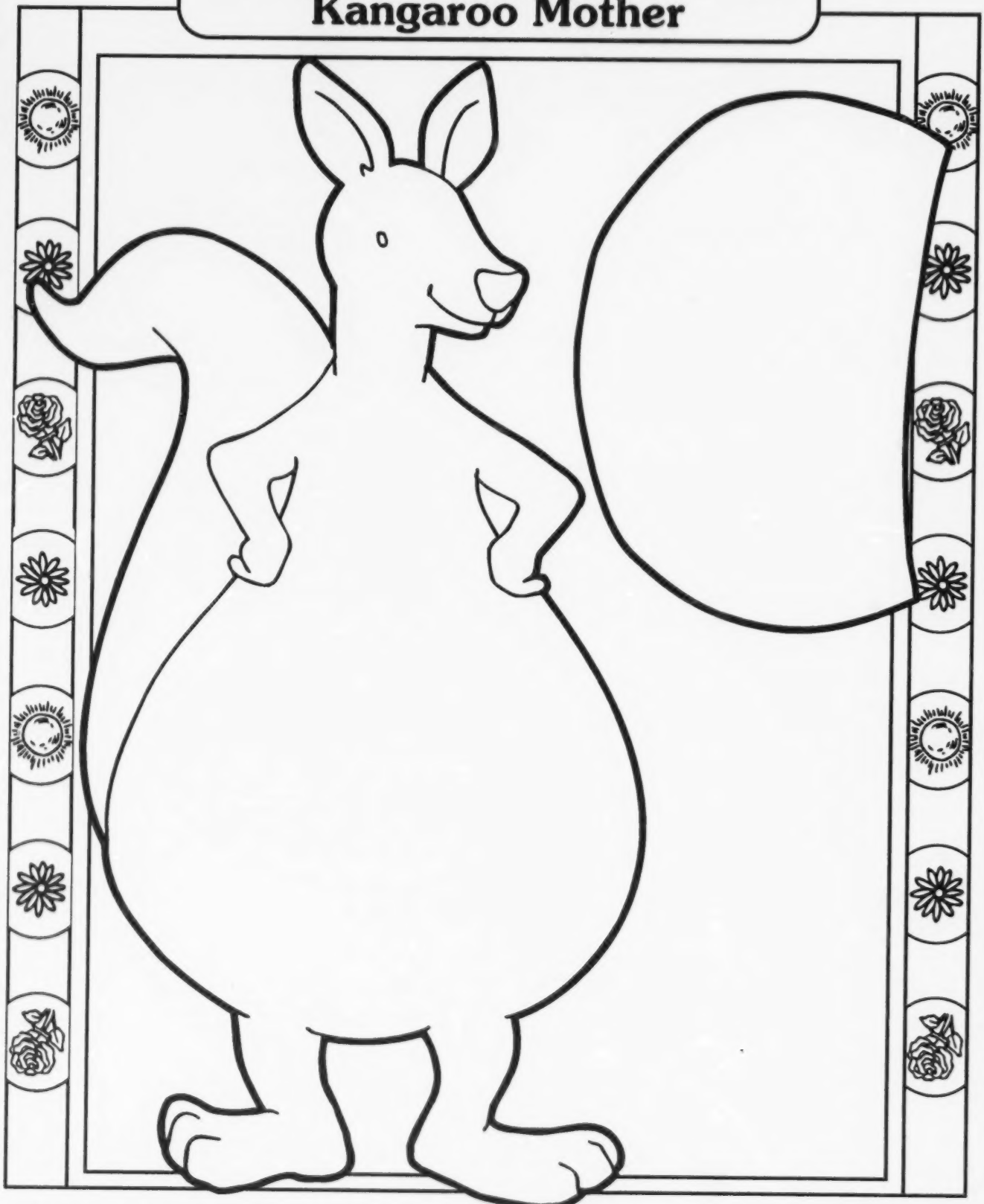
ORNAMENTS & DECORATIONS • AUSTRALIA

Kangaroo Mother



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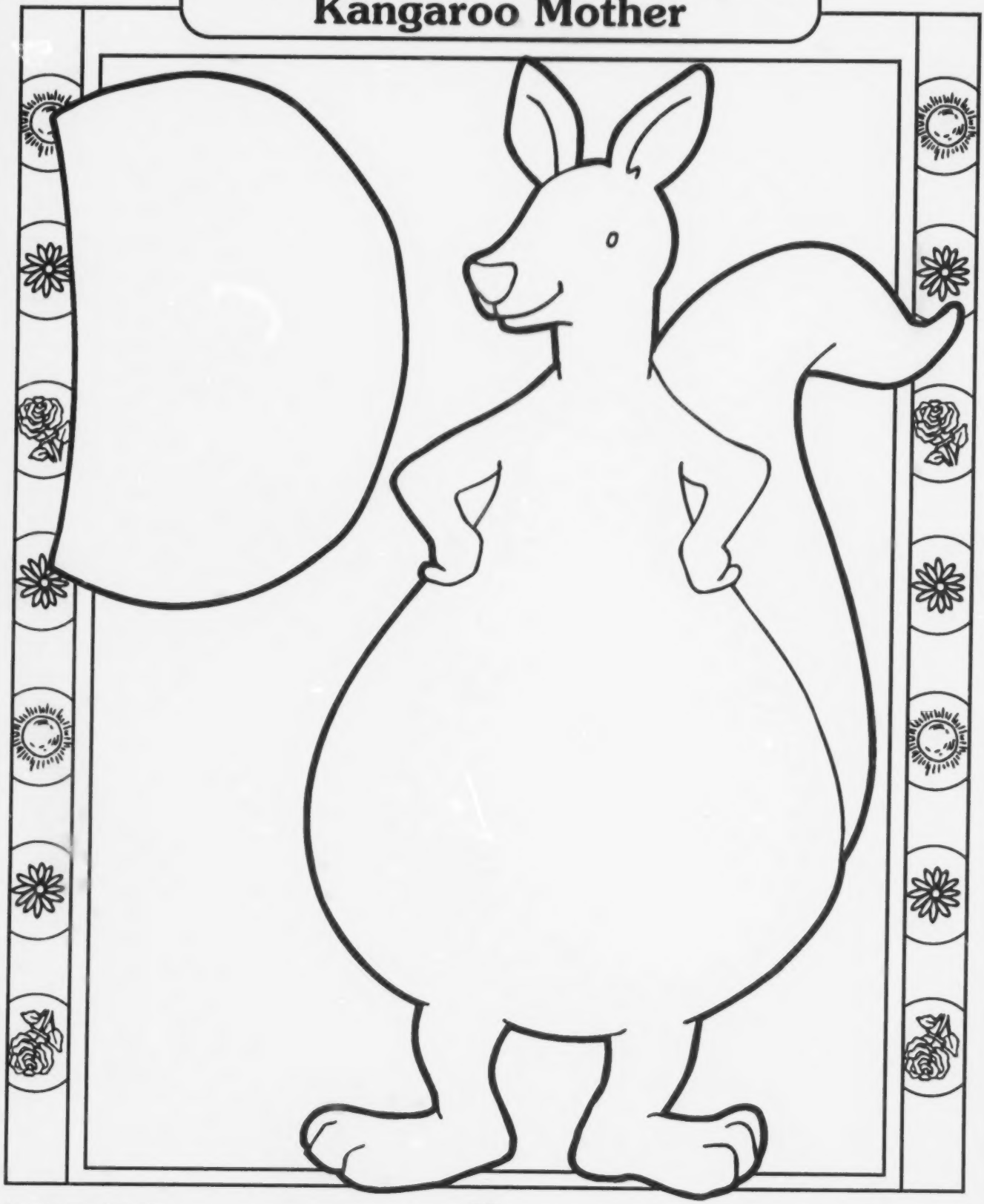
Kangaroo Mother



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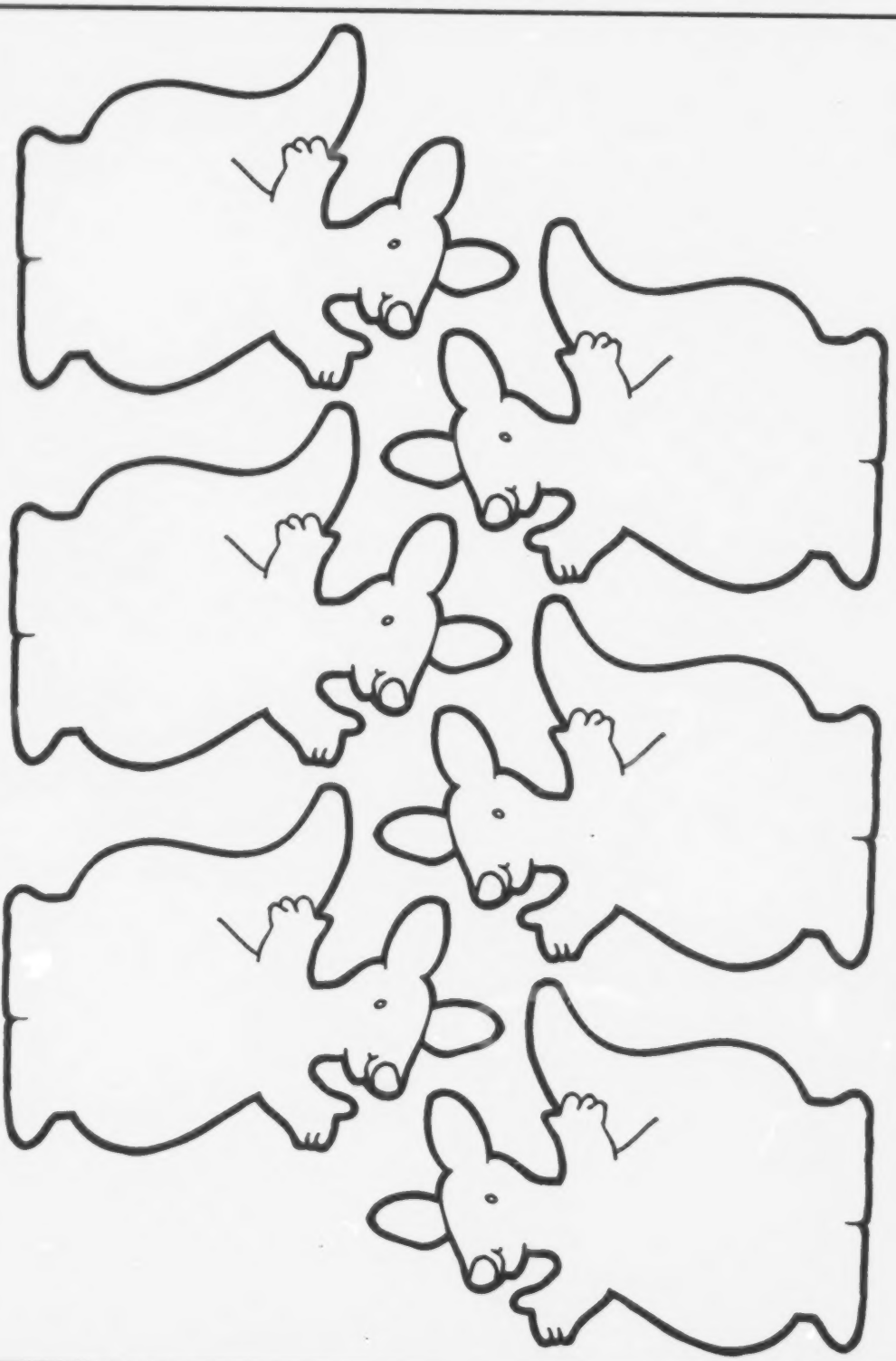
Joeys



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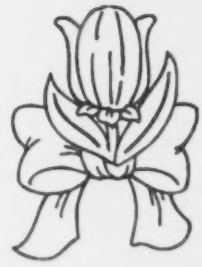
A TAKE-HOME NOTE FROM
AUSTRALIA



_____
Date

Dear _____,

We are _____

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Please _____

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Thank you!

_____
Teacher

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EUROPE

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HOLIDAY TRADITIONS & LEGENDS

Europe

Bulgaria
Bulgarians greet spring by pinning red and white tassels (martenitsa) on their clothing for health and happiness throughout the year. Red represents the color of life and white represents the sun and purity.

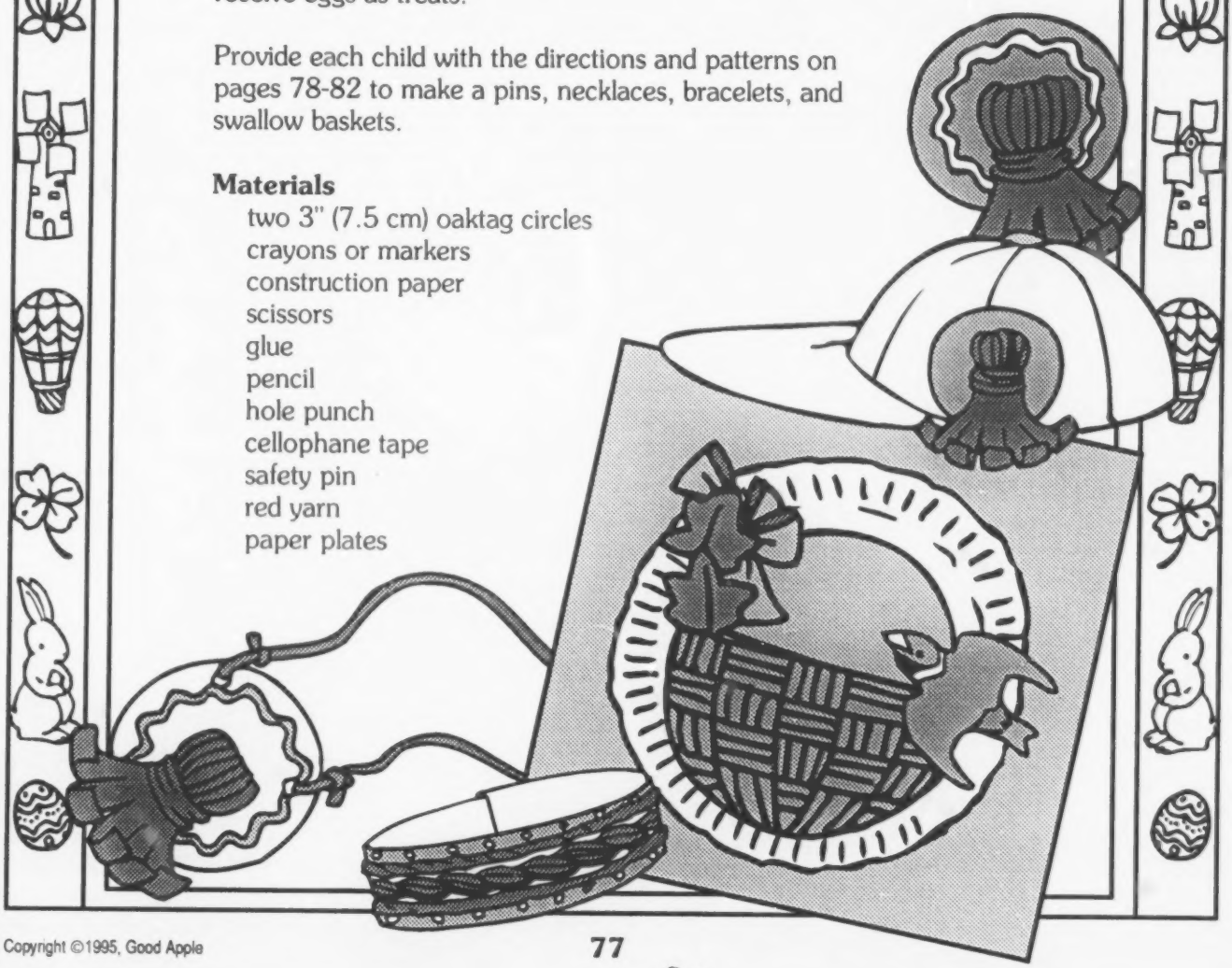
Greece
Greek children also greet spring wearing red and white. On the first day of March each child wears a bracelet called a *march* around his or her wrist until they see the first swallow of spring.

Children gather for a spring parade carrying an ivy-filled basket on a rod decorated with a wooden swallow. Boys carry wooden swallows on sticks and sing songs of spring. As the children go from house to house, housewives take ivy from the basket to place in hens' nests. The children receive eggs as treats.

Provide each child with the directions and patterns on pages 78-82 to make a pins, necklaces, bracelets, and swallow baskets.

Materials

- two 3" (7.5 cm) oaktag circles
- crayons or markers
- construction paper
- scissors
- glue
- pencil
- hole punch
- cellophane tape
- safety pin
- red yarn
- paper plates



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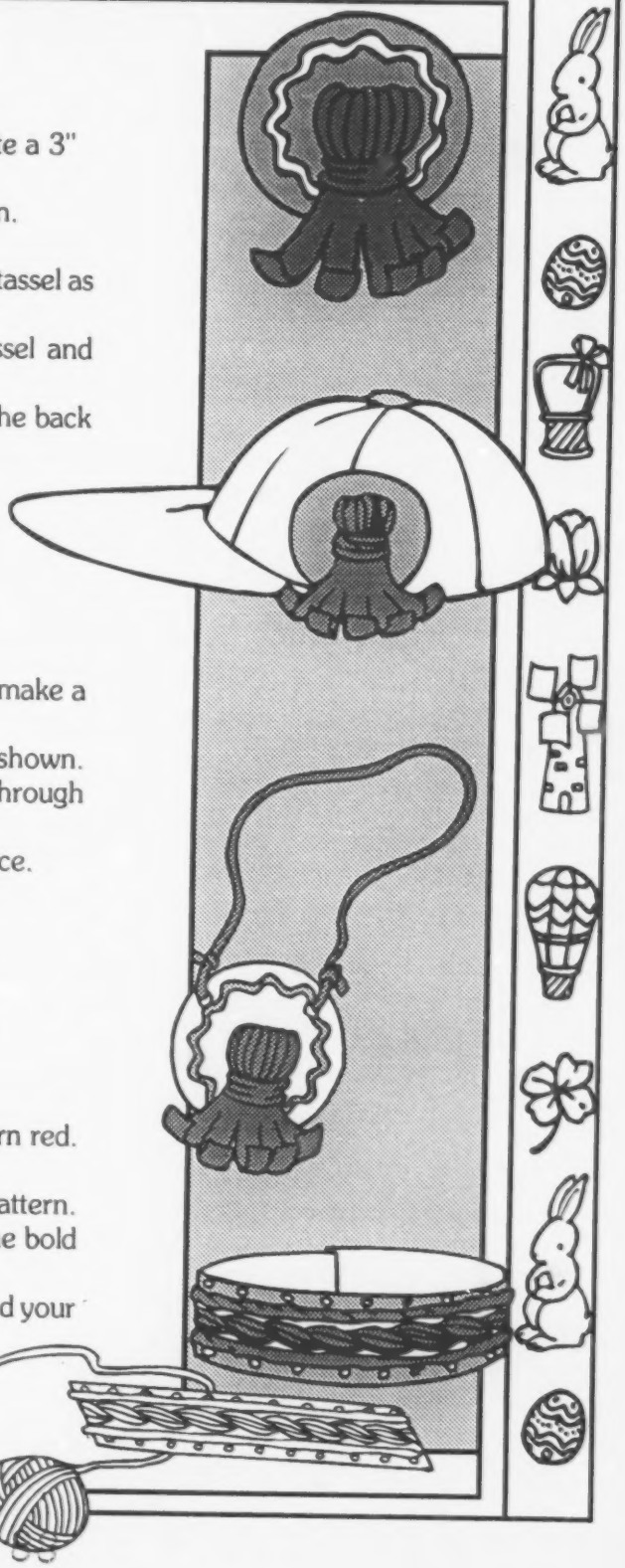
Spring Ornaments



Spring Pin

1. Use crayons or markers to decorate a 3" (7.5 cm) oak tag circle.
2. Color and cut out the tassel pattern.
3. Cut slits along the dotted lines.
4. Use a pencil to curl the ends of the tassel as shown.
5. Apply glue to the back of the tassel and attach it to the circle.
6. Use tape to fasten a safety pin to the back of the pin.

Spring Necklace

1. Follow steps 1-5 as listed above to make a pendant for a spring necklace.
2. Punch two holes in the pendant as shown.
3. Cut and lace a length of red yarn through each hole in the pendant.
4. Tie the loose ends to form a necklace.

Spring Bracelet

1. Color the dots on the bracelet pattern red.
2. Cut out the bracelet pattern.
3. Write your name on the back of the pattern.
4. Apply glue and attach red yarn to the bold lines.
5. Wrap the bracelet to fit loosely around your wrist and secure with tape.

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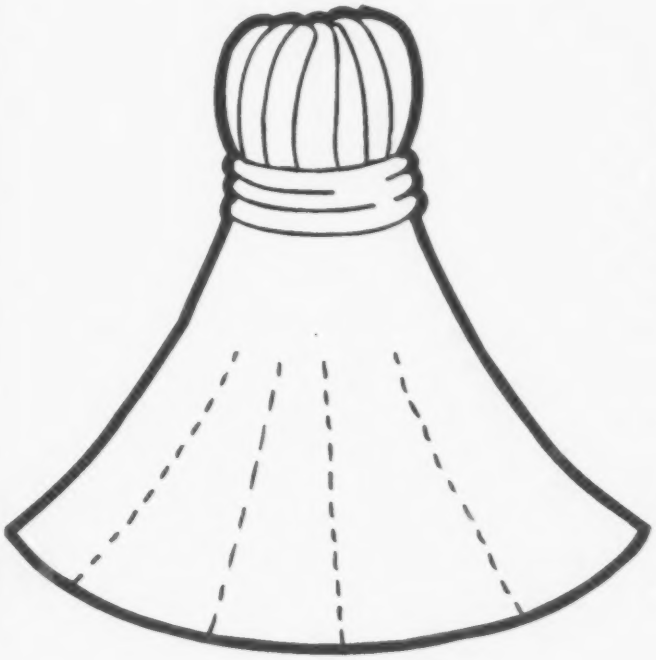
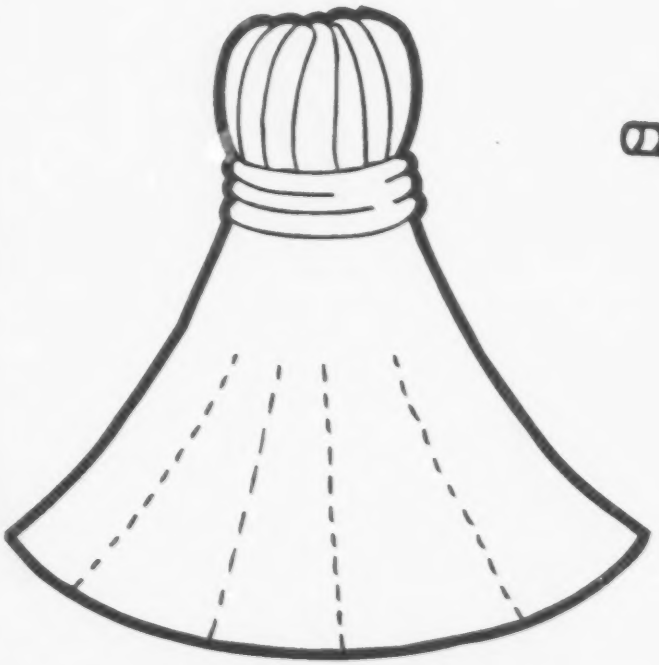
ORNAMENTS & DECORATIONS • BULGARIA

Tassel Patterns





Cut and curl tassels.

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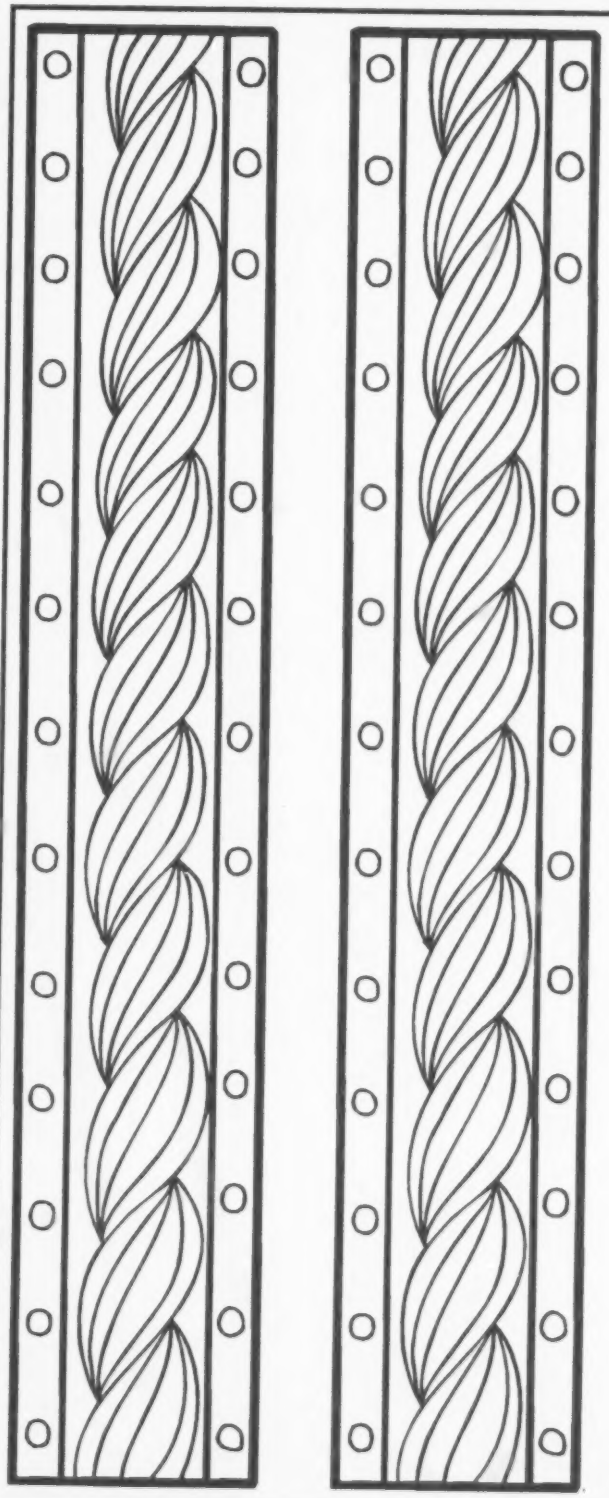
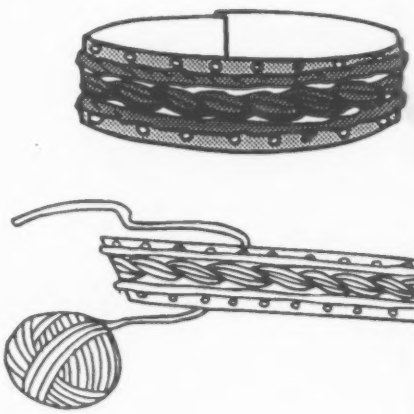
ORNAMENTS & DECORATIONS • GREECE

Bracelet Patterns





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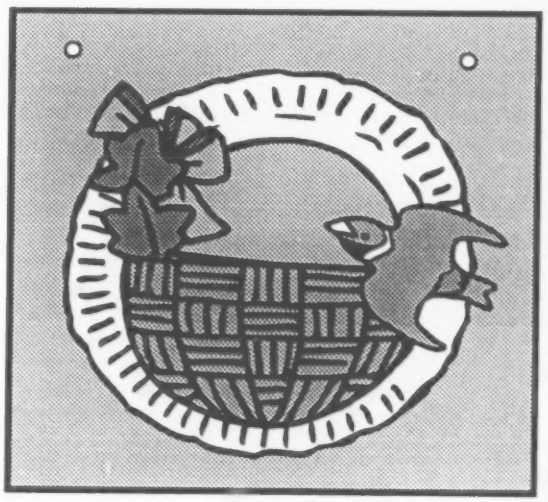
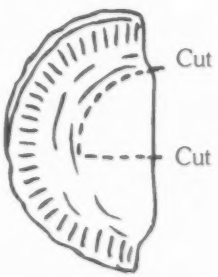
ORNAMENTS & DECORATIONS • GREECE

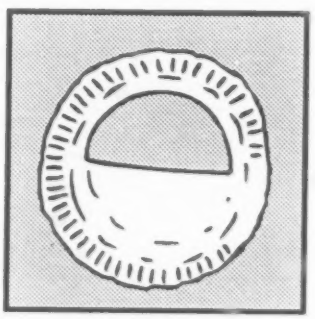
Spring Parade Basket



Materials

- crayons or markers
- scissors
- construction paper
- glue
- paper plate
- hole punch





Directions

1. Color and cut out the patterns.
2. Fold a paper plate in half and cut a window as shown.
3. Unfold the plate and glue it to the center of a sheet of construction paper.
4. Glue the remaining patterns to the paper plate.
5. Punch two holes at the top to lace and tie a yarn hanger.

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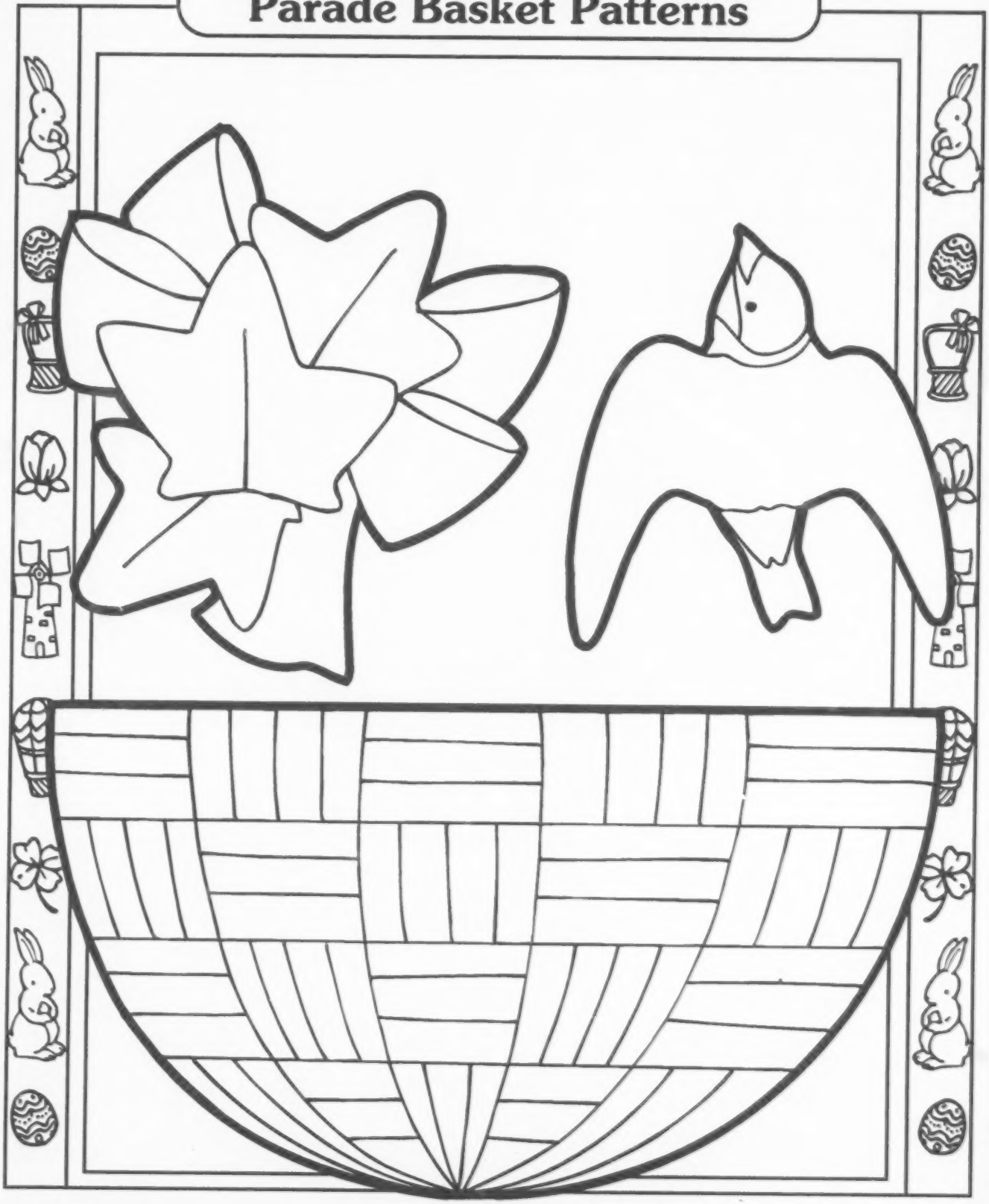
ORNAMENTS & DECORATIONS • GREECE

Parade Basket Patterns



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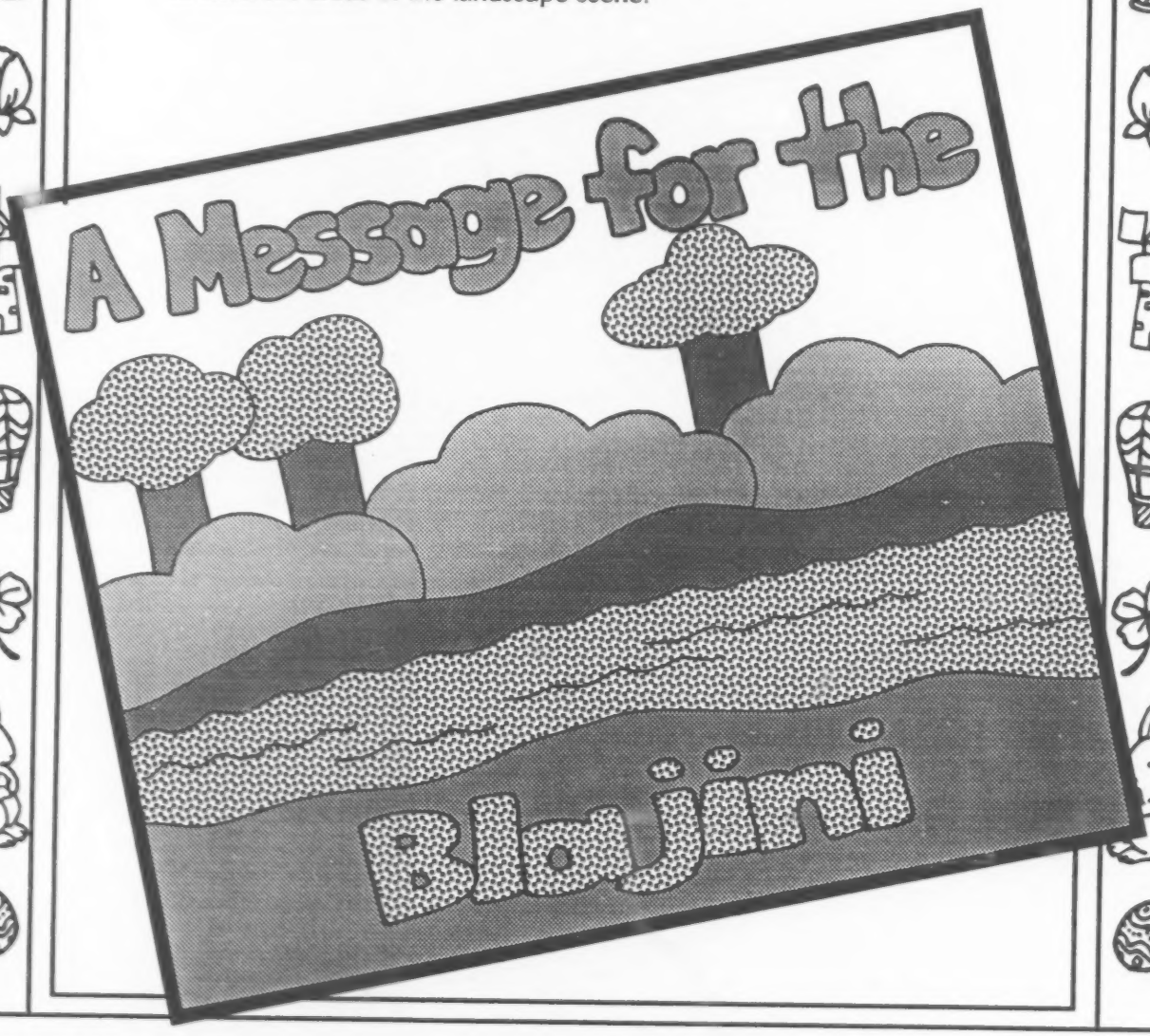
HOLIDAY TRADITIONS & LEGENDS • EUROPE

Romania

In Romania, legend tells of kind beings called Blajini who live in a fairyland and are unaware of the events that occur in our real world.

On Blajini Day, the children of Romania participate in a unique spring celebration. Several days after the spring holiday of Easter, children crush and throw colored egg shells into a running stream. They do this to alert the Blajini that Easter has arrived.

Reproduce the pattern on page 86 for children to create a message for the Blajini. Prepare a workstation with egg shells, powdered paint, pie tins, brushes, and glue. Demonstrate how to color and glue the egg shells to different areas of the landscape scene.



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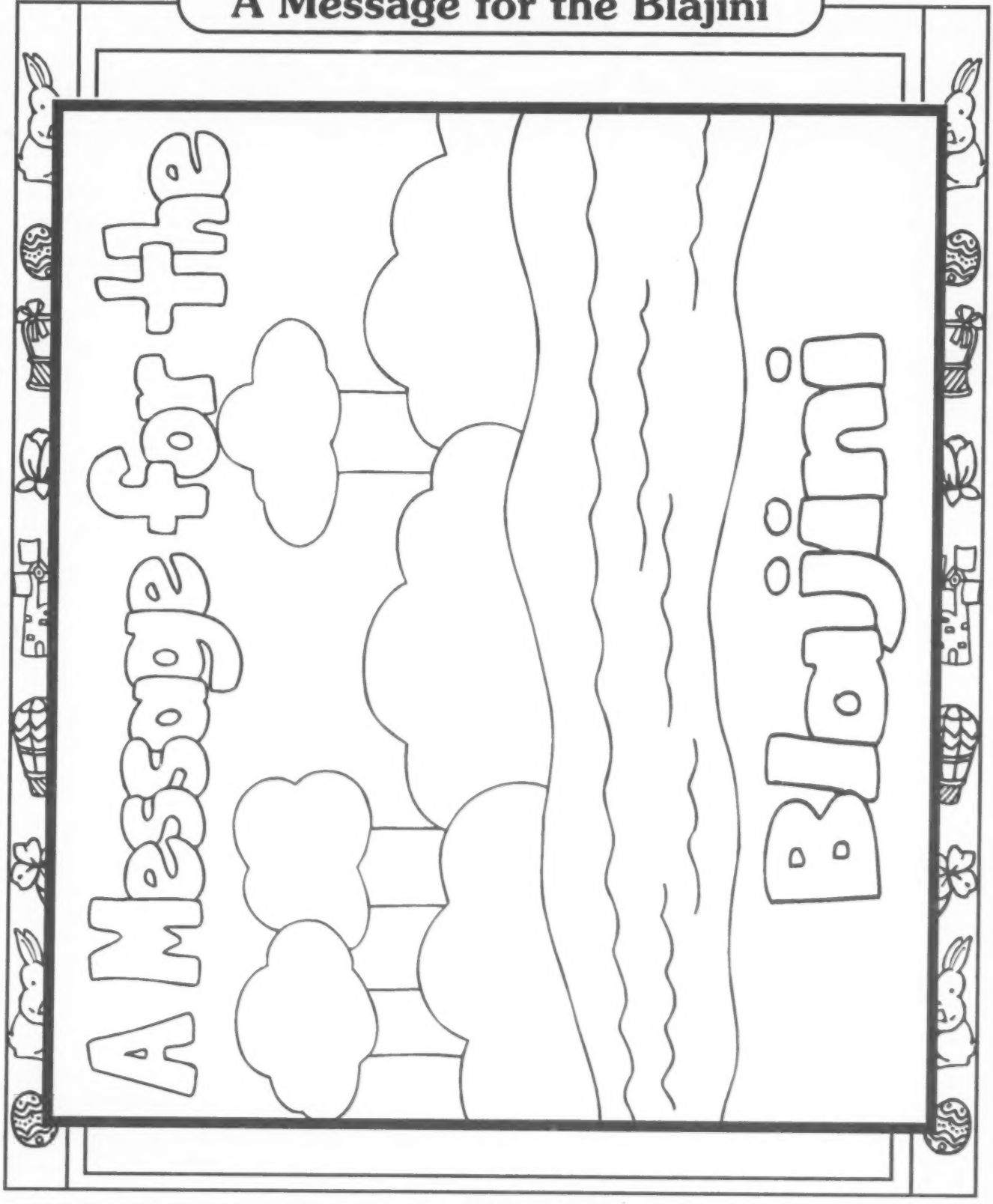
HOLIDAY GIFTS & GREETINGS • ROMANIA

A Message for the Blajini



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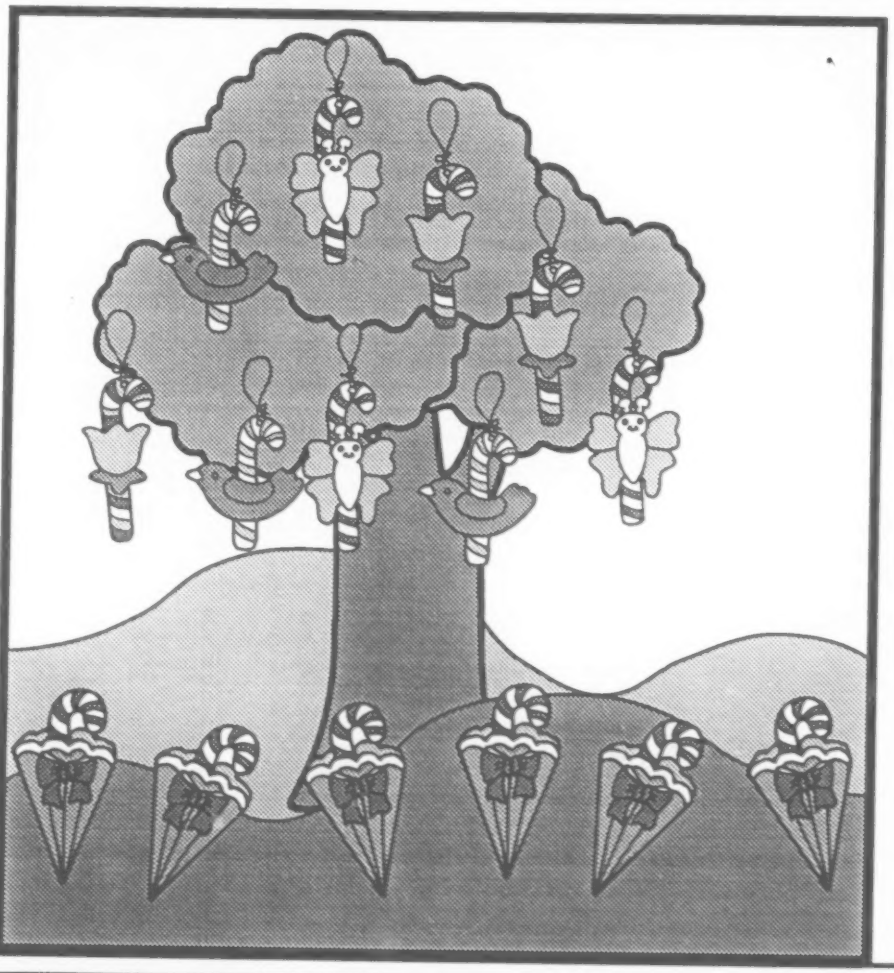
Iceland

The first day of summer which occurs in mid- to late April is one of the most festive celebrations in Iceland. The people of Iceland, especially the young, gather to play games, read poetry, play sports, sing, dance, and eat the best foods and beverages. Families gather to exchange summer gifts.

Decorate your classroom for a "First Day of Summer" celebration. Enlarge, color, and cut out the summer tree and ornament patterns on pages 88-90. Display the tree on a pale blue bulletin board entitled "Happy First Day of Summer."

Also provide students with the pattern on page 90 to make summer gift cones. Insert a treat in each cone and place it at the base of your classroom summer tree.



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ORNAMENTS & DECORATIONS • ICELAND

Summer Tree

Enlarge and reproduce the tree to display on your bulletin board.

Cut three tree tops.

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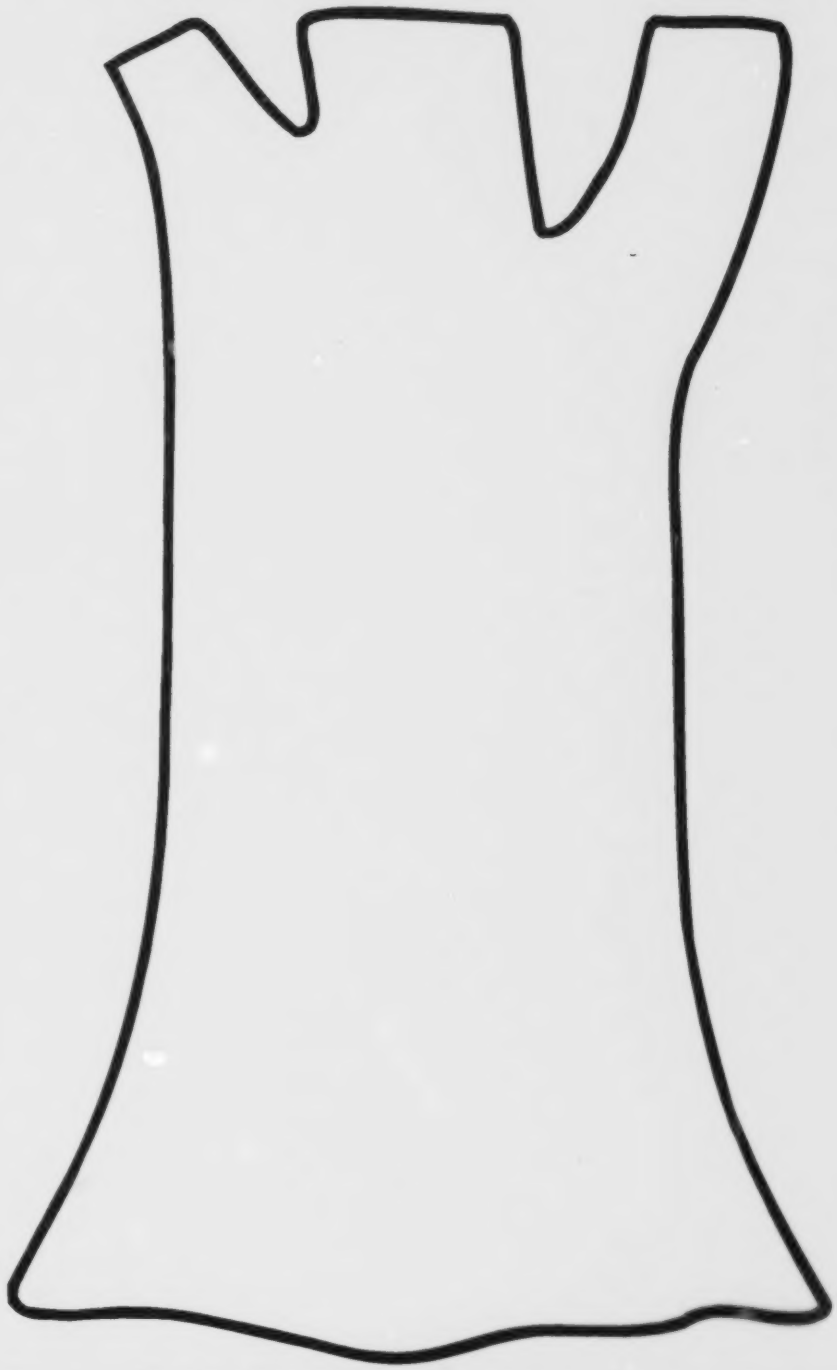
ORNAMENTS & DECORATIONS • ICELAND

Summer Tree

Enlarge and reproduce the tree to display on your bulletin board.



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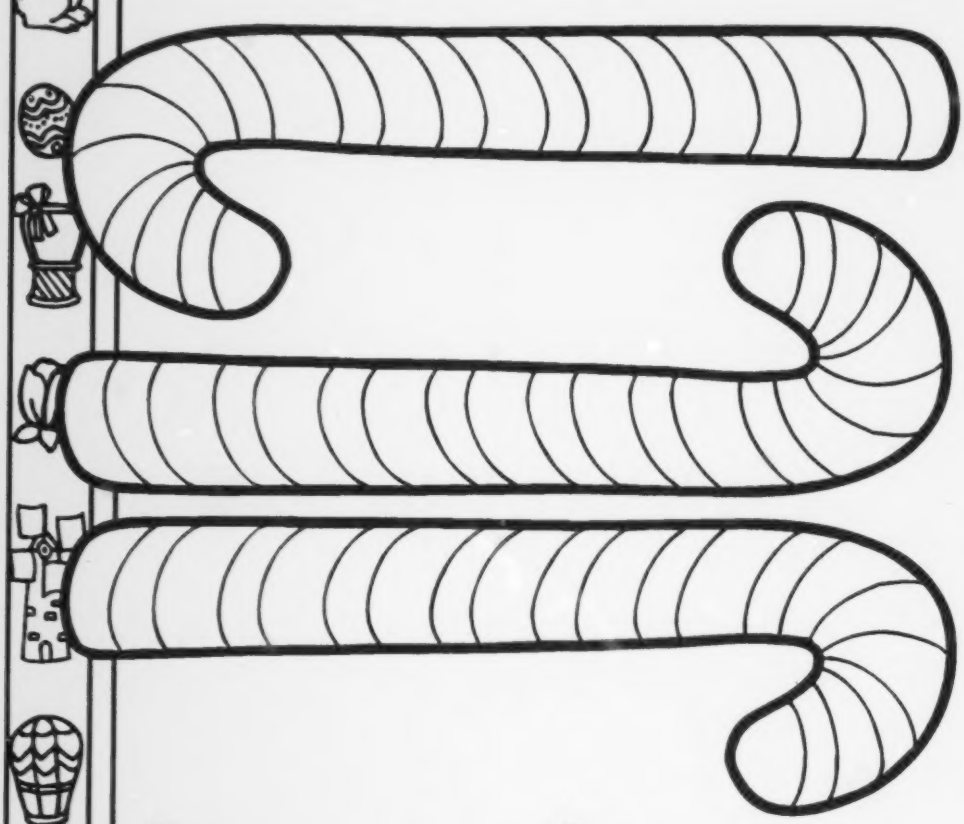
Summer Tree Ornaments

Reproduce these ornaments for your students to color, cut out, and assemble to decorate your classroom summer tree.



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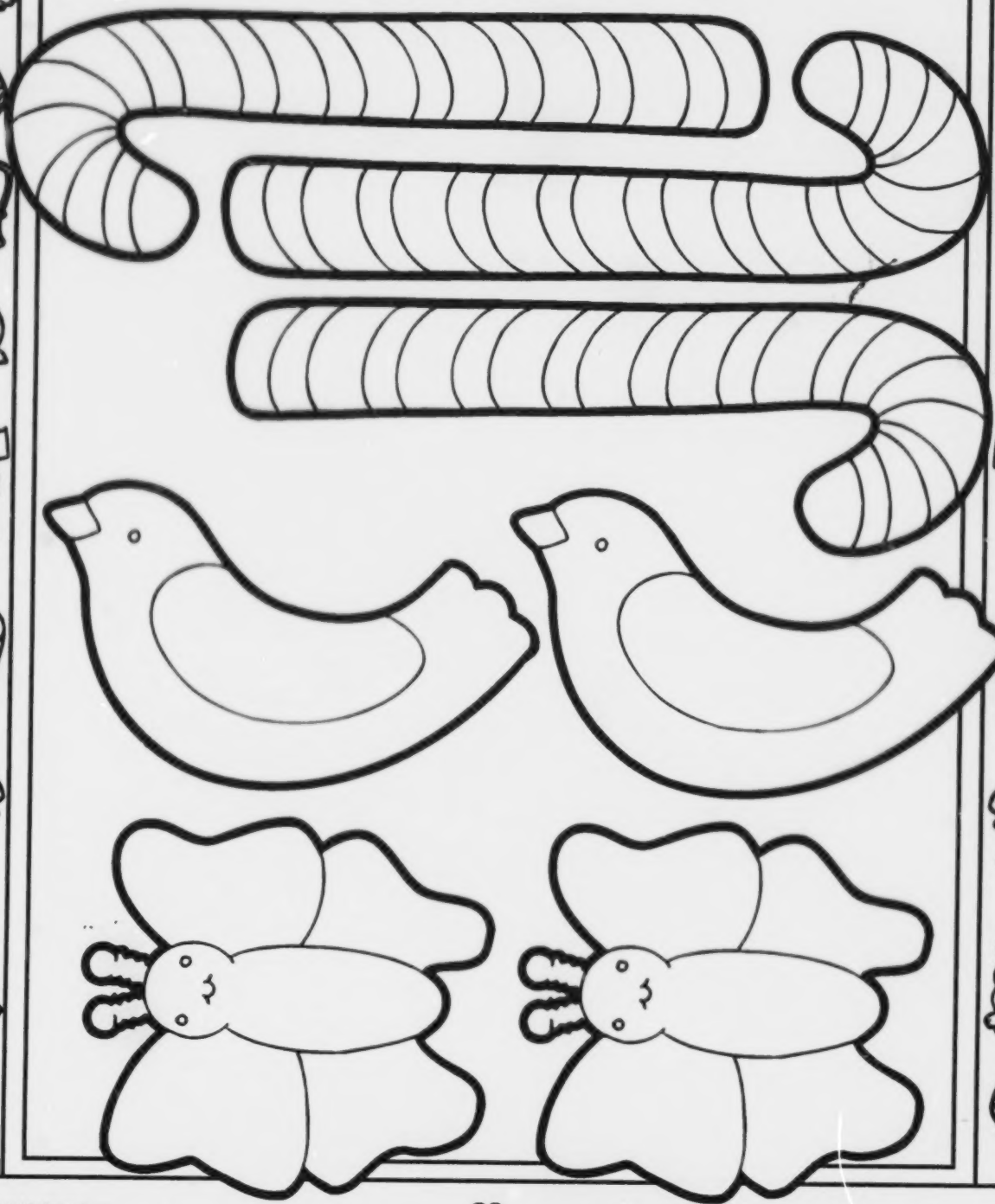
ORNAMENTS & DECORATIONS • ICELAND

Summer Tree Ornaments

Reproduce these ornaments for your students to color, cut out, and assemble to decorate your classroom summer tree.



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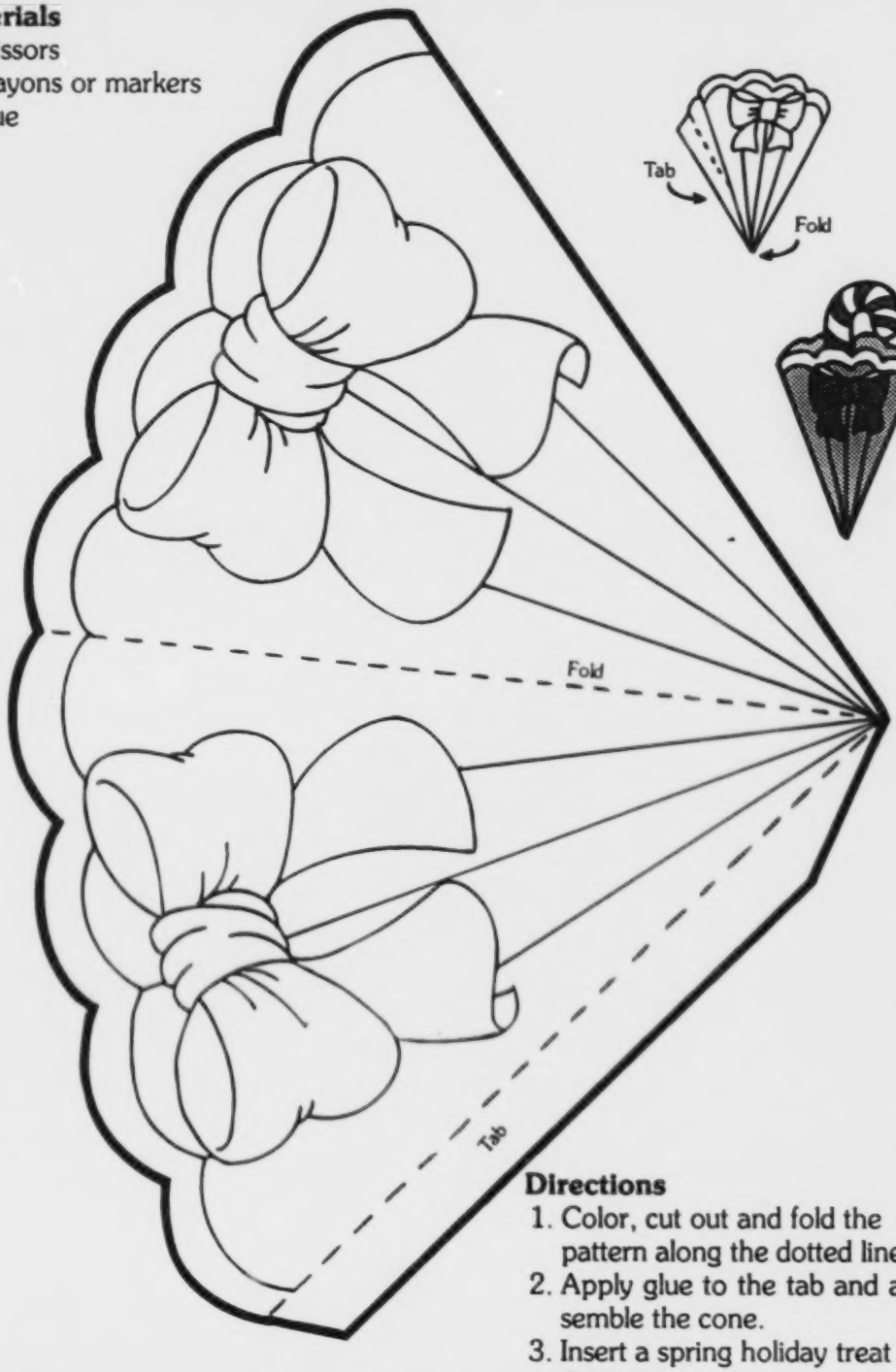
Summer Gift Cone

Materials

scissors
crayons or markers
glue



Directions

1. Color, cut out and fold the pattern along the dotted lines.
2. Apply glue to the tab and assemble the cone.
3. Insert a spring holiday treat in the cone.

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Ireland

In Ireland, legendary fairies who live with a cobbler known as a leprechaun celebrate May Eve on the last day of April. However, every seventh year the fairies spend the day boxing for the best crops of wheat, barley, and oats.

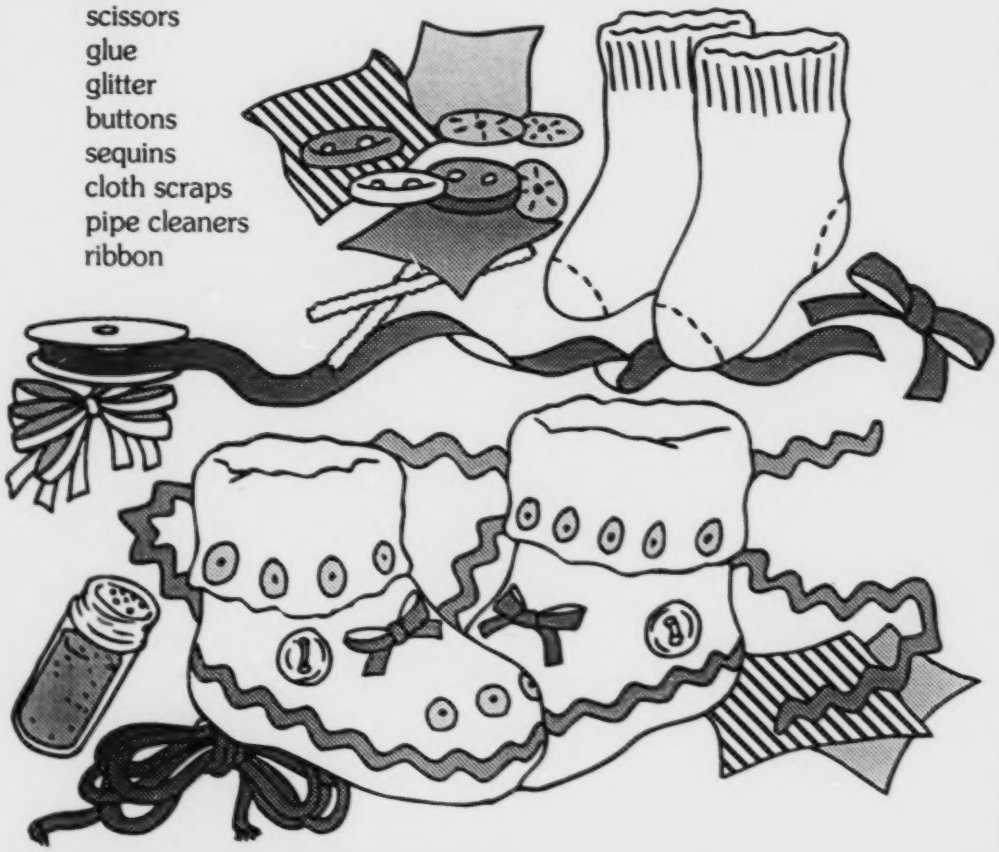
The champions gather to share a traditional beverage and dance for twenty-four hours without even stopping to catch their breath. On this day the leprechaun and his helper are kept busy making shoes for every dancing fairy.

Use the take-home note on page 97 to ask parents to send old pairs of socks to school and for volunteers to help children make their very own fancy dancing shoes.

Provide each child with a pair of socks and the materials listed below.

Materials

scissors
glue
glitter
buttons
sequins
cloth scraps
pipe cleaners
ribbon



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St. George's Day

St. George's Day is celebrated in several European countries. Legend tells of a knight named St. George who slew a giant dragon in return for a promise from a group of townspeople. It is said that it took four carts to carry off the slain dragon.

Transform a space in your classroom into a creative reading center with your students' help. Enlarge and transfer the dragon pattern on pages 93-94 to fit on blue or green poster board. Assemble and display the dragon in a classroom reading center entitled, "The Friendly Dragon's Lair." Enlarge, color, cut out, and list reading topics on book patterns, on page 95.

Then provide each child with a 2" x 24" (5 cm x 60 cm) oaktag strip, crayons or markers, scissors, cellophane tape, glue, and the pattern on page 96 to make reading headbands.

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102

The Friendly Dragon

Enlarge and transfer the dragon to fit on a sheet of poster board.

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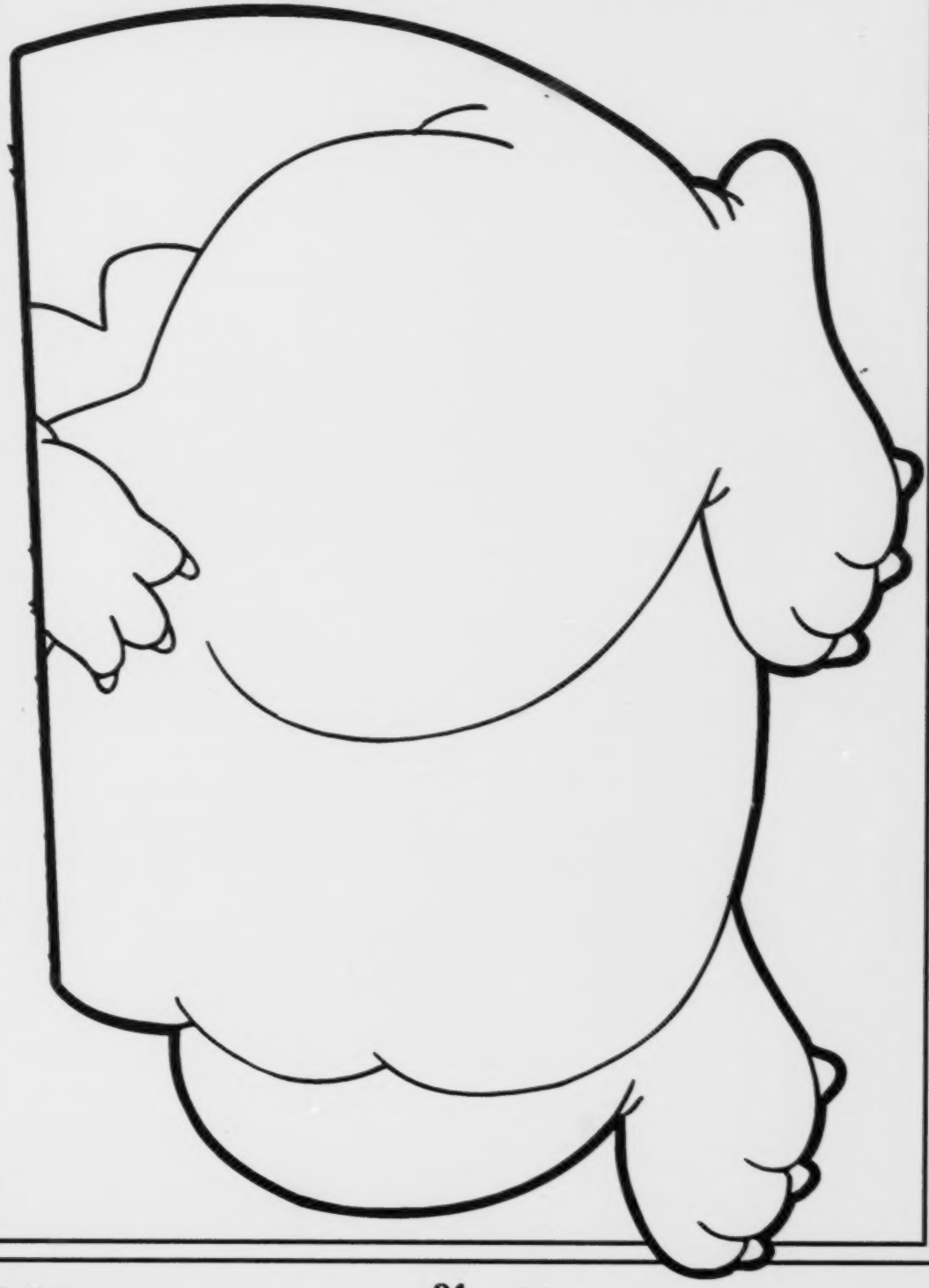
The Friendly Dragon

Enlarge and transfer the dragon to fit on a sheet of poster board.



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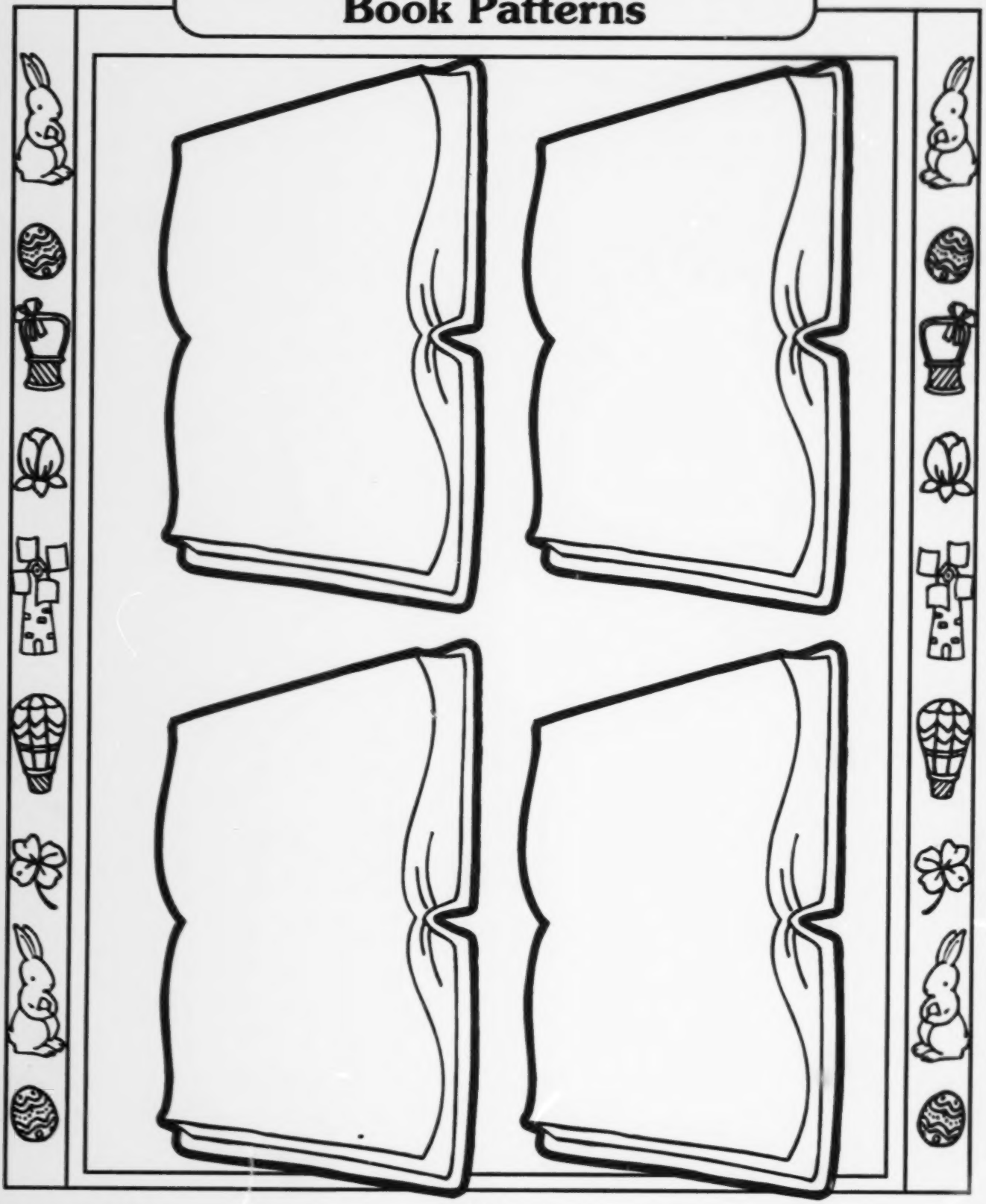
Book Patterns



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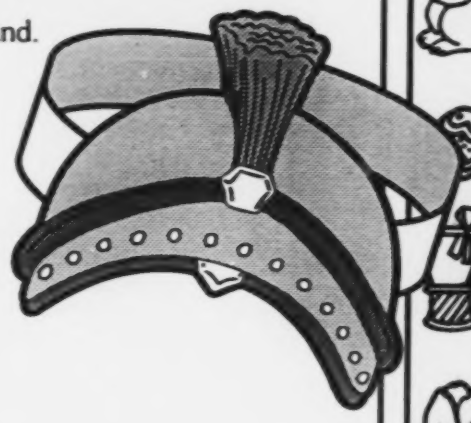
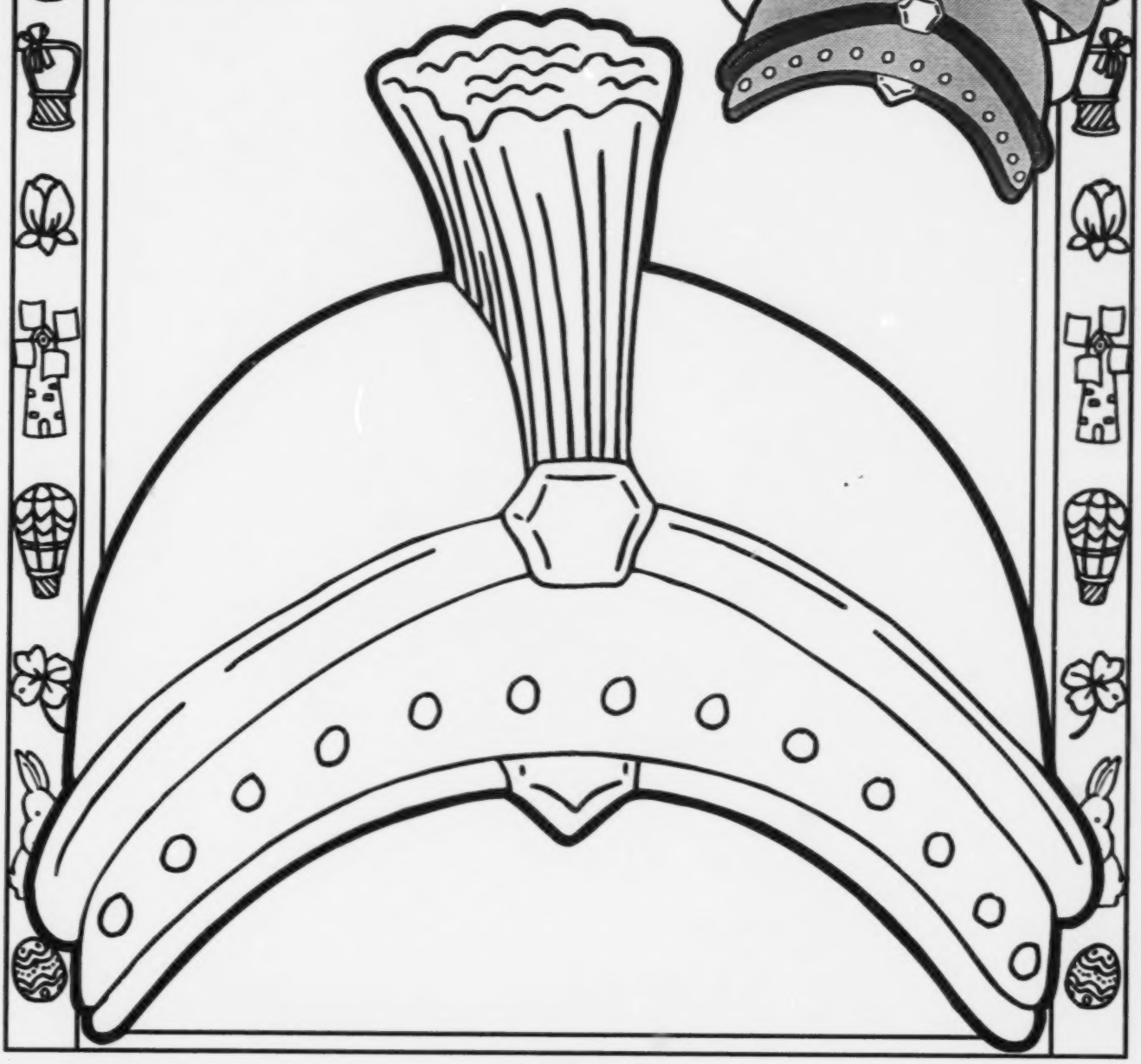
Reading Headband

Directions

1. Wrap a 2" x 24" (5 cm x 60 cm) oaktag strip to fit around your head and secure with tape.
2. Color, cut out, and glue the pattern to the headband.





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A TAKE-HOME NOTE FROM
EUROPE

_____
Date

Dear _____,

We are _____
_____.

Please _____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

_____
_____

Thank you!

_____
Teacher

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NORTH AMERICA

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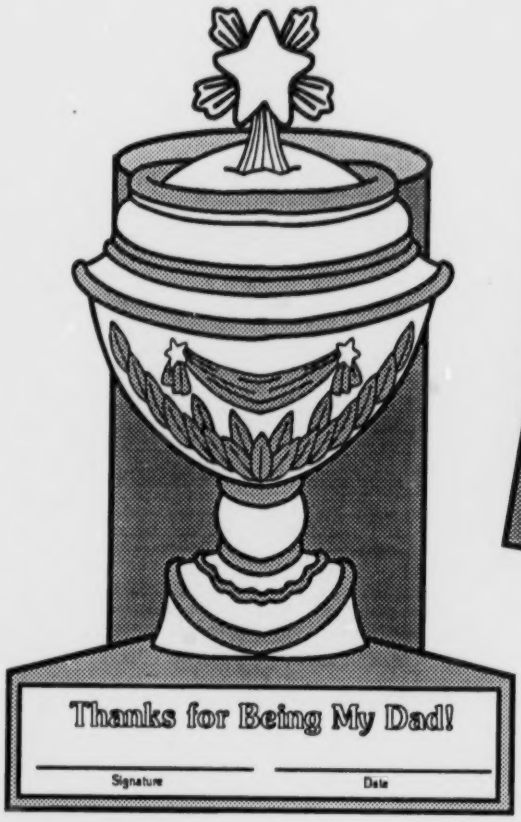
Father's Day

Father's Day became a national holiday in 1972, thanks to Senator Margaret Chase Smith. Children across the nation make and shop for gifts to show their affection and honor for their fathers. Provide your students with one of the projects on pages 100-107 for a variety of Father's Day gifts and greetings.

Thanks for Being My Dad!
Your students will need the trophy pattern on page 100, an empty juice can, and craft supplies to make a keepsake pencil holder for a Father's Day gift.

Me and My Dad Portraits
Provide each student in your class with the directions and one of the portrait patterns on pages 101-107 to color and cut out. Also provide 12" x 18" (30 cm x 45 cm) sheets of construction paper for students to make picture frames for their finished portraits.



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Thanks for Being My Dad!

Materials

- juice can
- construction paper
- crayons or markers
- scissors
- glue
- glitter

Thanks For Being My Dad!

Signature _____ Date _____

Directions

1. Color and cut out the trophy pattern.
2. Write your name and the date on the blanks.
3. Cover an empty juice can with construction paper.
4. Apply glue and attach the trophy to the covered juice can.
5. Give the trophy pencil holder to your dad on Father's Day.

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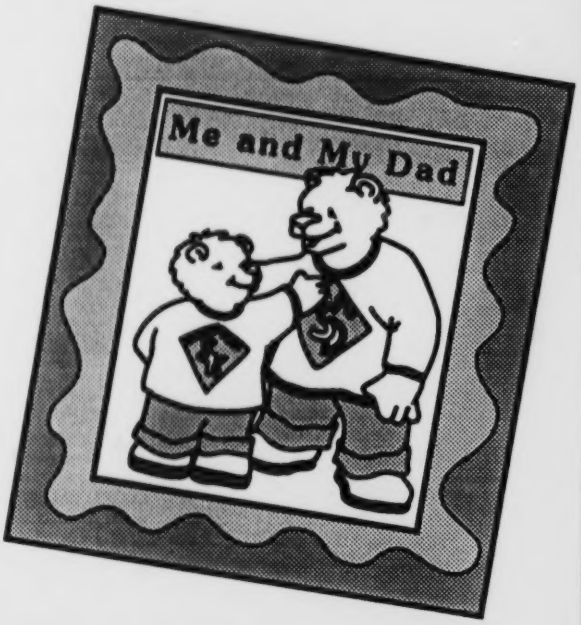
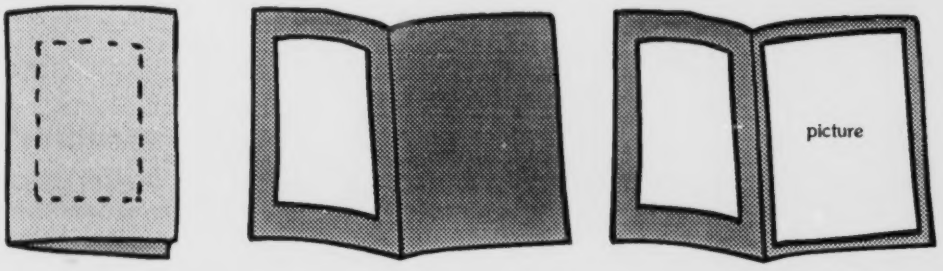
Me and My Dad Portraits

Materials

crayons or markers
scissors
glue
glitter glue
12" x 18" (30 cm x 45 cm) construction paper
cellophane tape





Directions

1. Color and cut out the portrait.
2. Fold a 12" x 18" (30 cm x 45 cm) sheet of construction paper in half.
3. Measure and mark a 2" (5 cm) border from the outside edges and the fold as shown.
4. Carefully cut a window to form a frame.
5. Decorate the frame with glitter glue.
6. Position and tape the portrait inside the frame as shown.
7. Then fold the window frame over the portrait and secure with tape or glue.

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Me and My Dad Portrait

Me and My Dad

Happy Father's Day, Dad!

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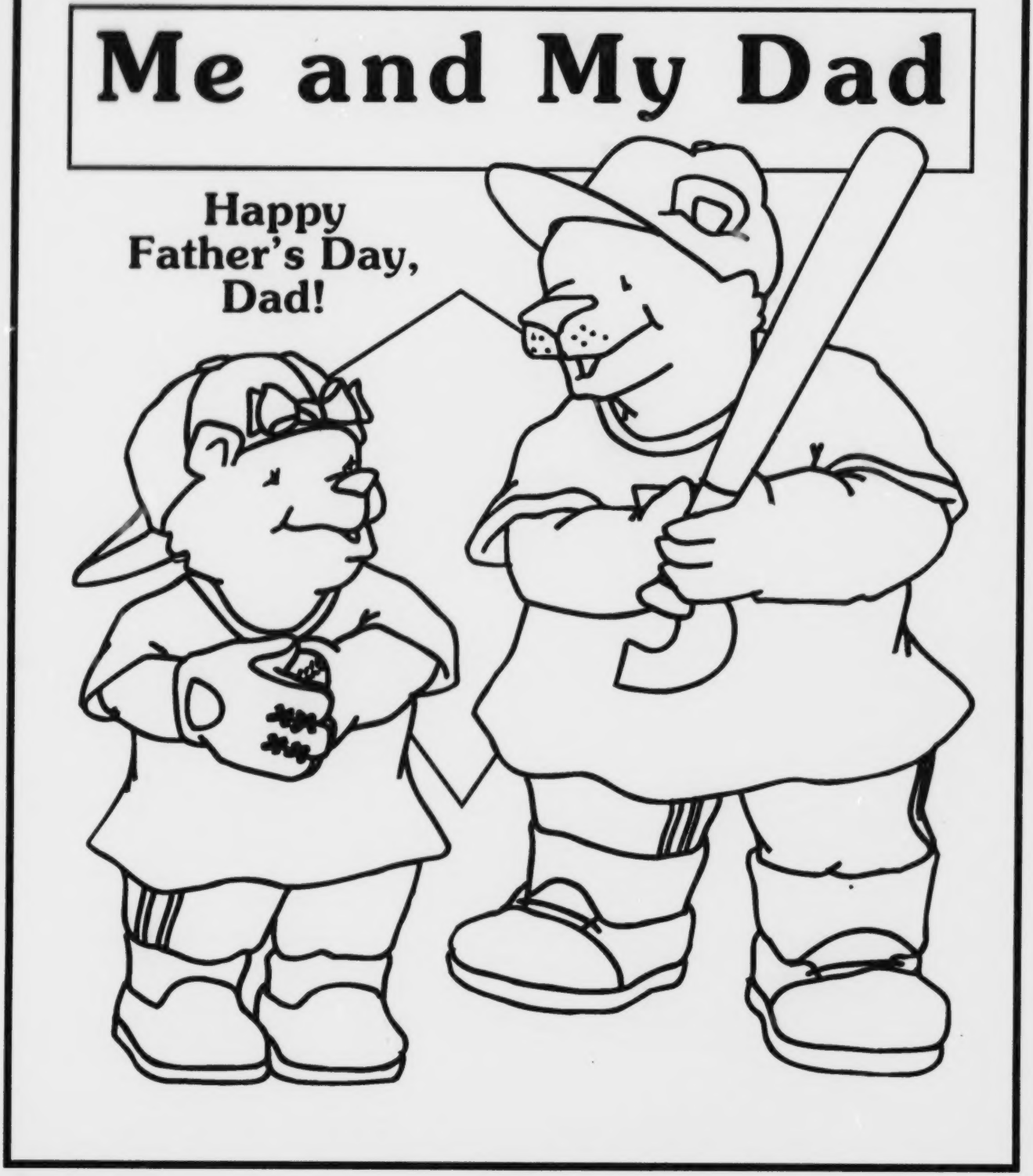
Me and My Dad Portrait



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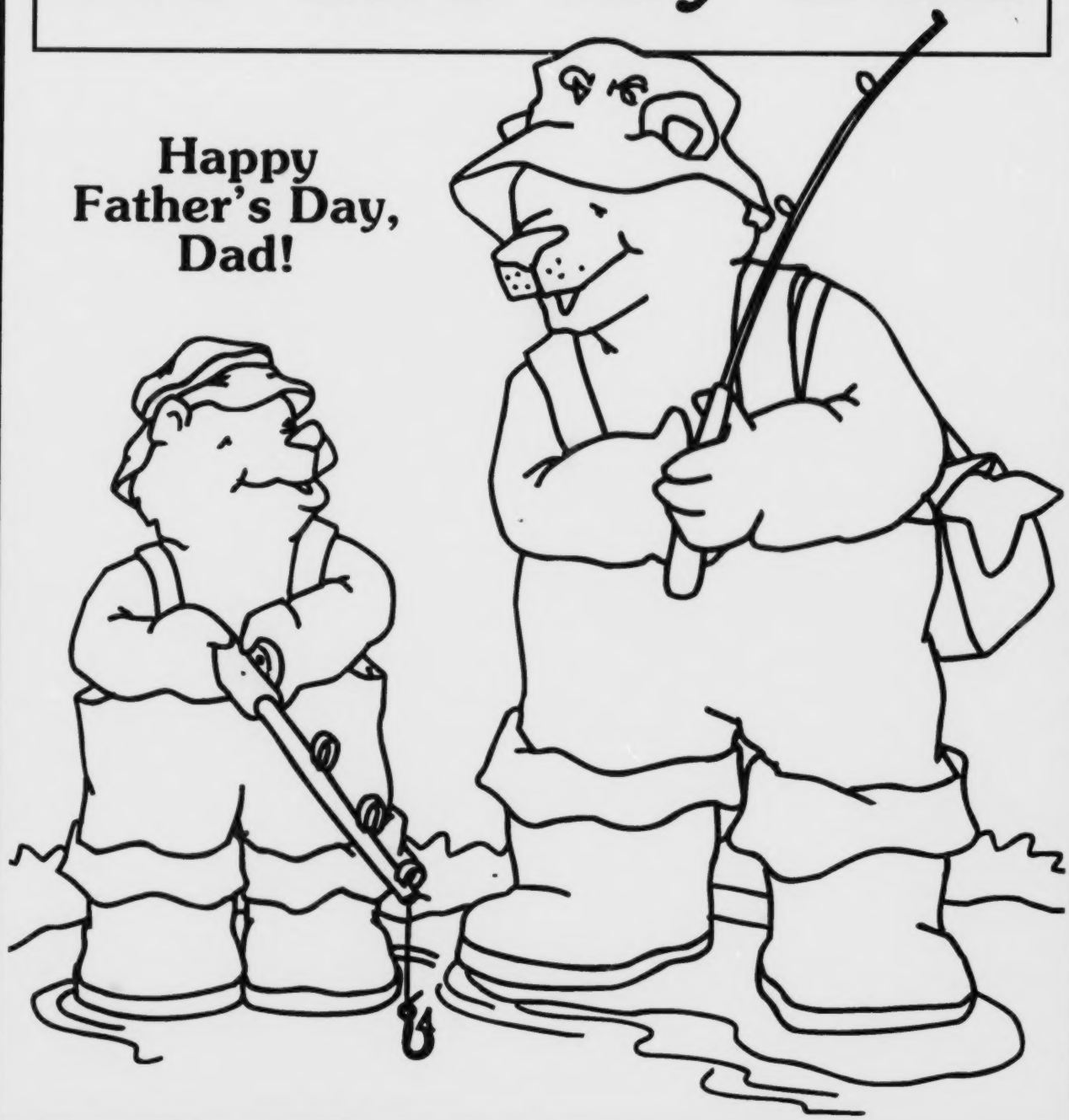
Me and My Dad Portrait

Me and My Dad



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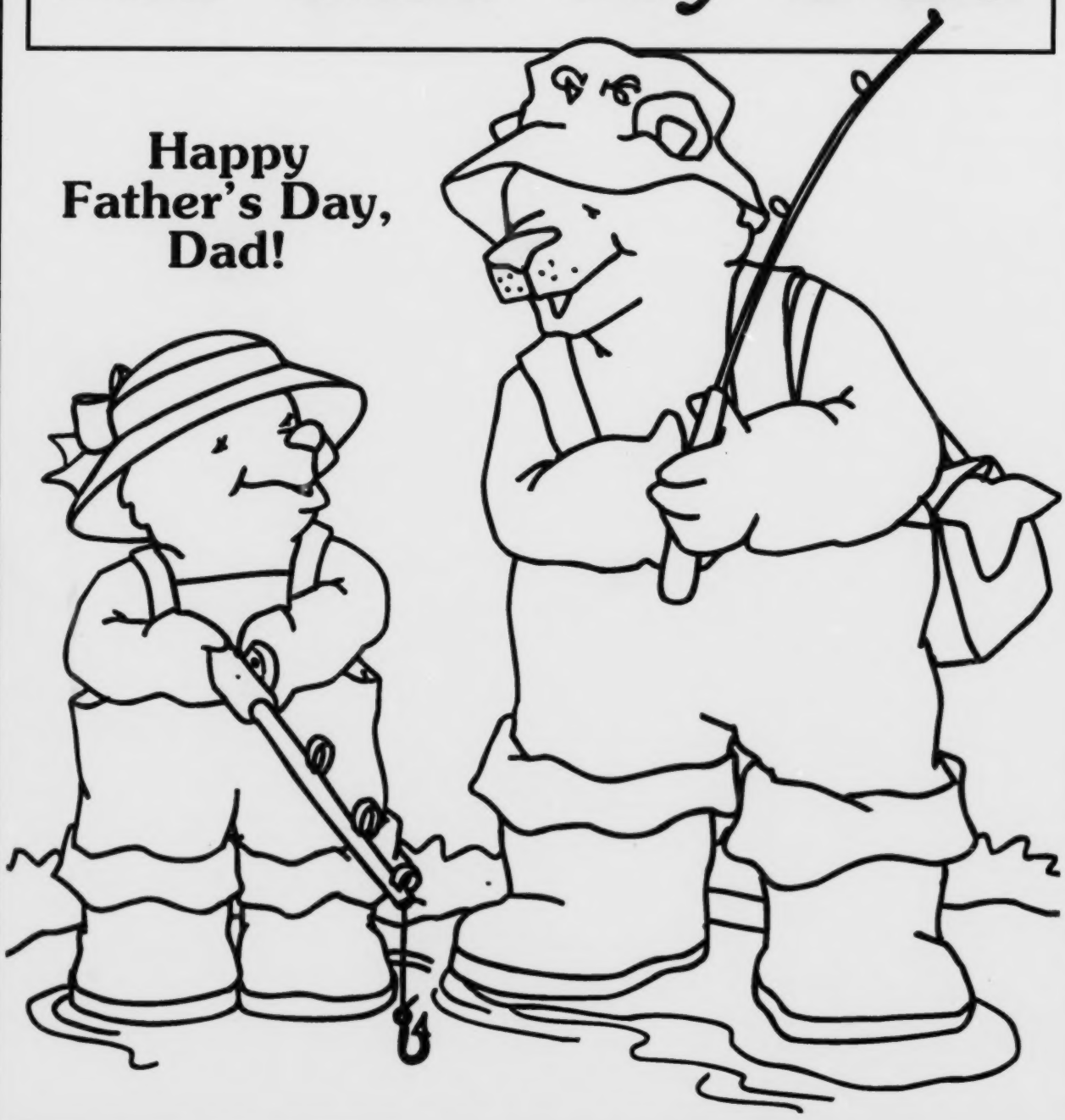
Me and My Dad Portrait

Me and My Dad



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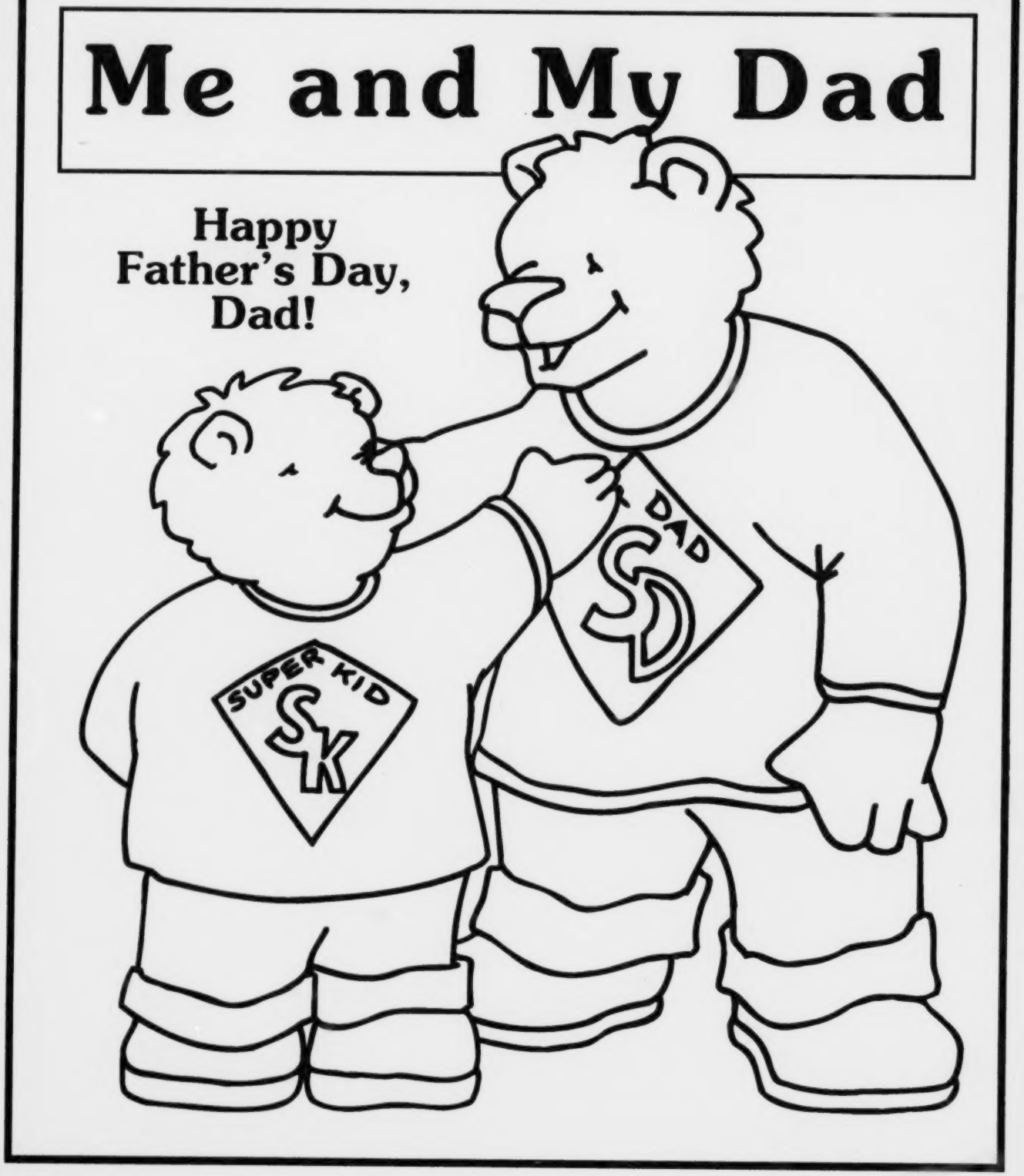
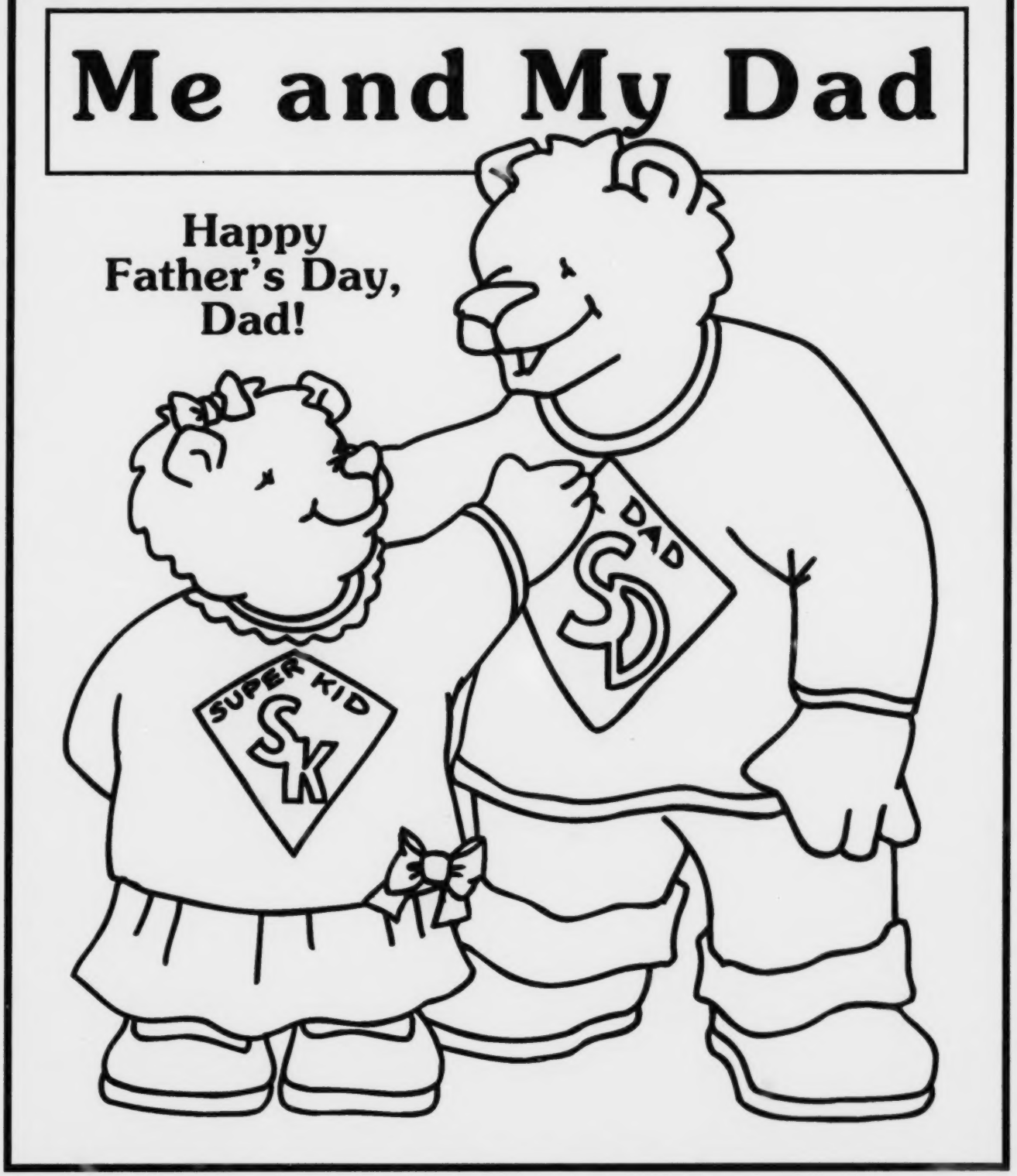
Me and My Dad Portrait



Copyright ©1995, Good Apple

Me and My Dad Portrait



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Mother's Day

Mother's Day first became a national holiday of remembrance in 1911 thanks to Anna Jarvis of Grafton, West Virginia. Traditionally, children of all ages do special things or make simple handmade gifts to show affection and appreciation for their mothers. Today, children write poems, sing songs, do extra chores, and continue to make keepsake gifts for mothers to treasure.

In keeping with the tradition of handmade gifts, reproduce the patterns on pages 109-110 for students to make pocket blossom pictures for their mothers. Students will need two pocket blossoms to complete this project.

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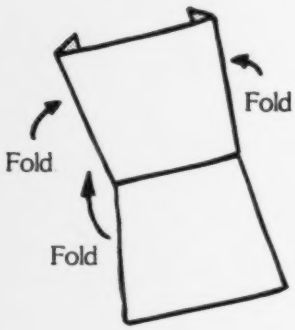
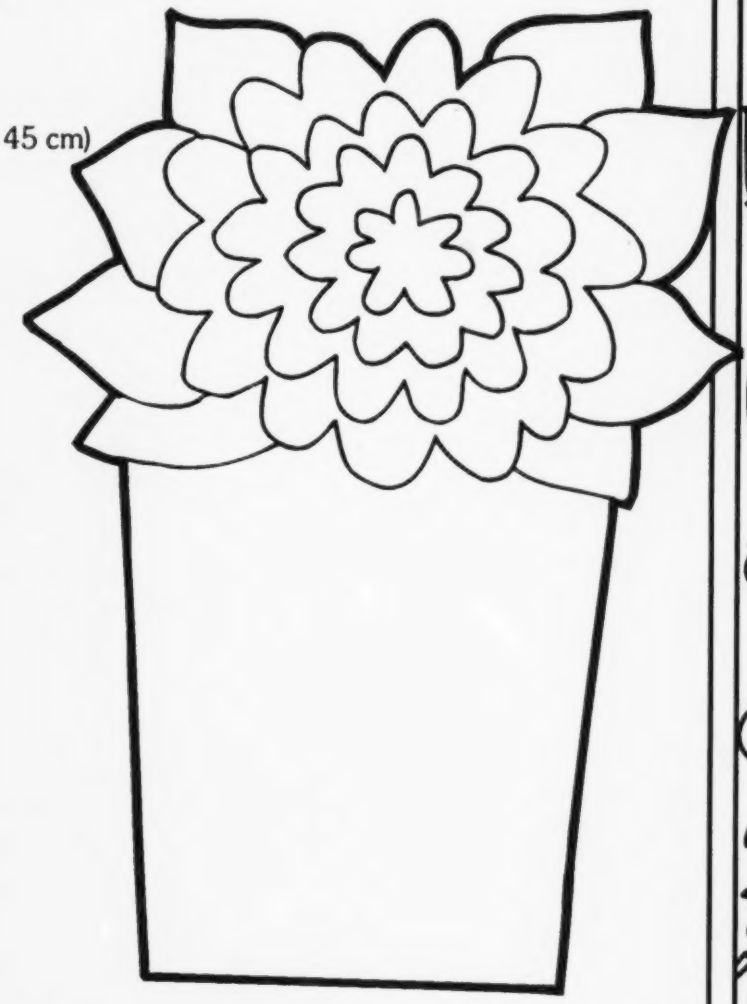
HOLIDAY TRADITIONS & LEGENDS

Pocket Blossoms

Materials

crayons or markers
scissors
glue
ribbon
12" x 18" (30 cm x 45 cm) oaktag





Directions

1. Color and cut out several flower patterns.
2. Write a special message at the bottom of each flower pattern.
3. Color and cut out the flower pots.
4. Fold and glue the sides of the flower pots to form pockets.
5. Attach a colorful ribbon to the front of each pot.
6. Draw a colorful border around a 12" x 18" (30 cm x 45 cm) sheet of oaktag.
7. Glue the flower pot pockets along the bottom of a sheet of oaktag.
8. Insert the flowers in the pots.

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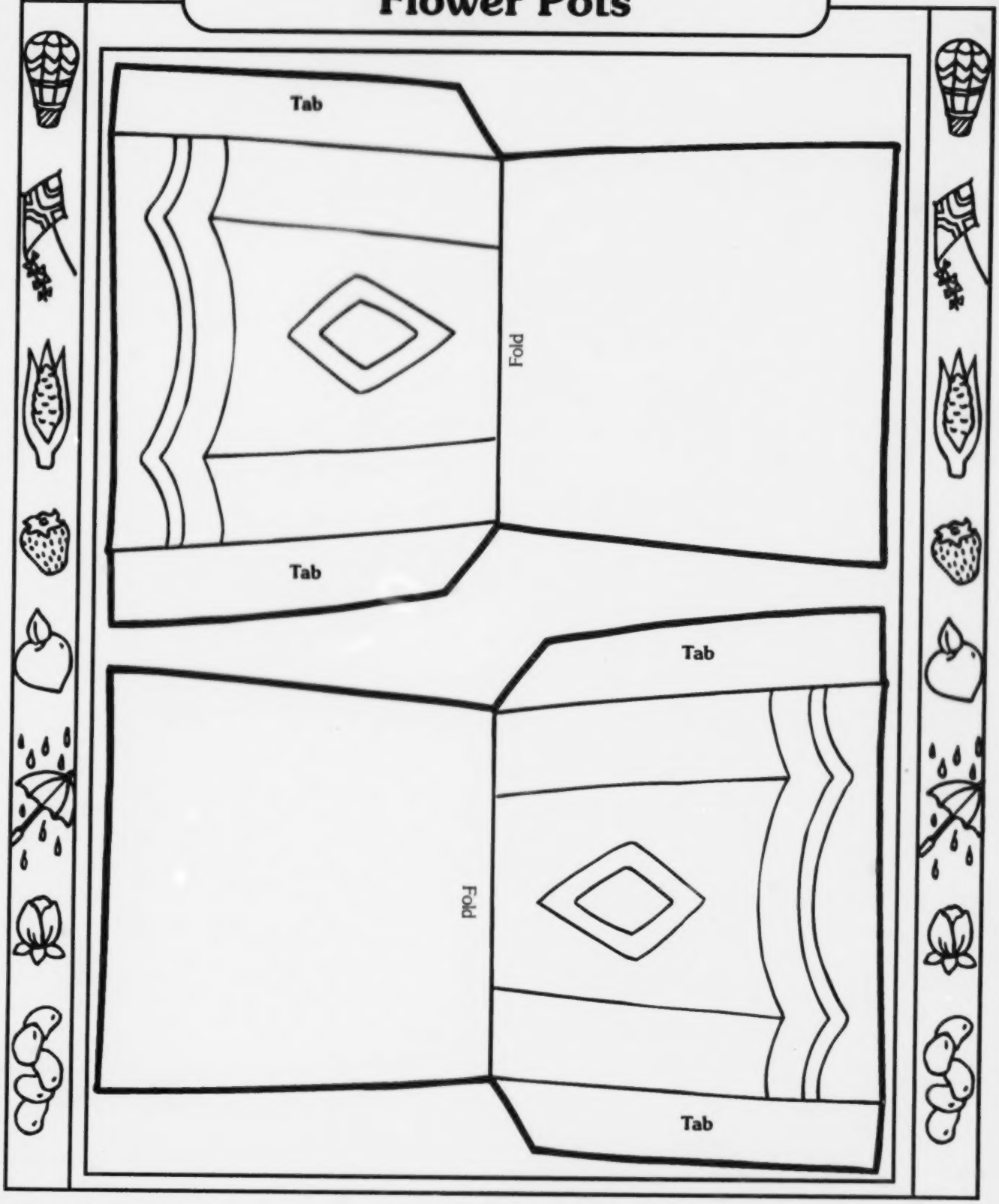
HOLIDAY TRADITIONS & LEGENDS

Flower Pots



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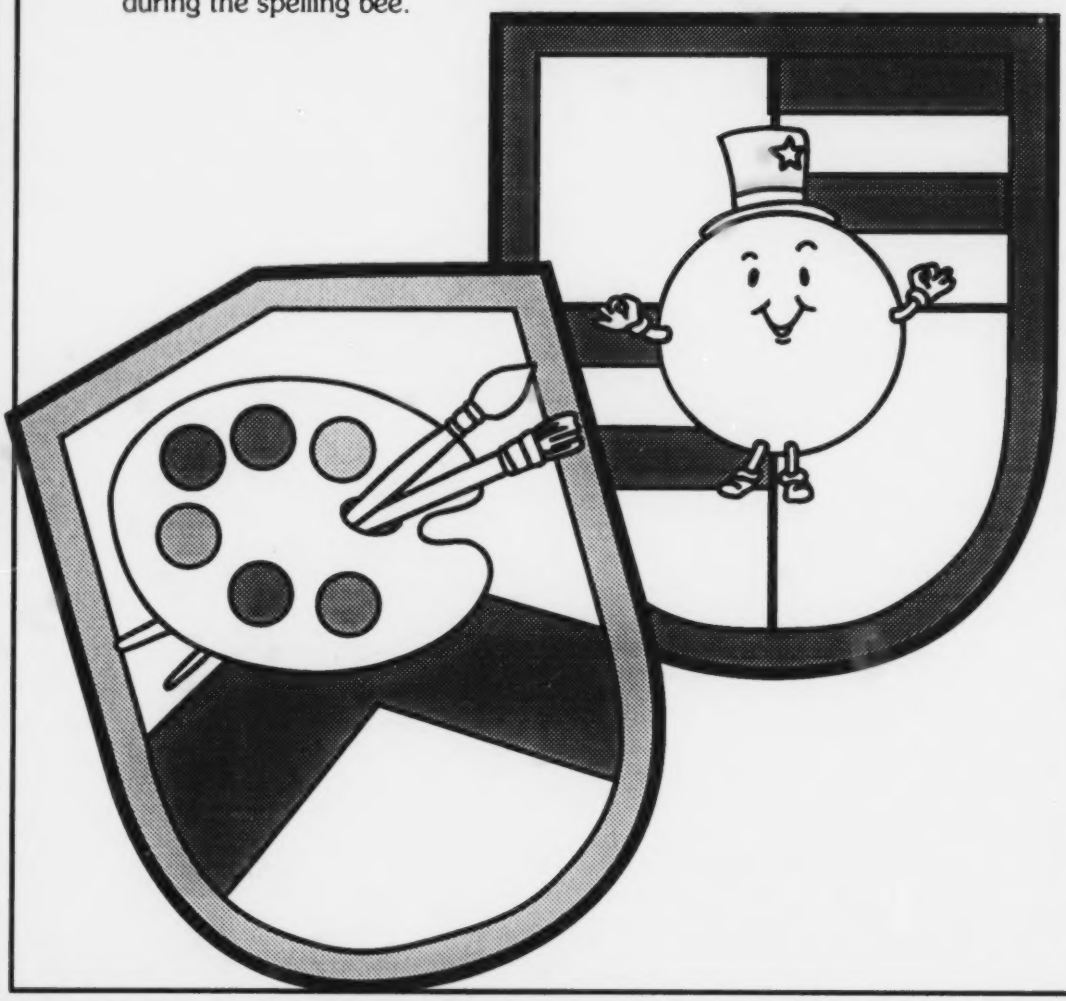
HOLIDAY TRADITIONS & LEGENDS

Cinco de Mayo

Cinco de Mayo, the Fifth of May, is one Mexico's most important holidays. The celebration is held in honor of Mexico's victory over French rule. A parade precedes mock battles and plays that begin in the morning and continue through the night. The battle performers include both men and women dressed in costumes representing the French and Mexican forces. During meal breaks, the opposing forces continue the battle by playing games to capture food and supplies from the enemy.

A Great May Spelling Bee Battle

Pick two children to be spelling bee generals on opposing teams and have them choose their spelling bee partners. Introduce your students to heraldry. Then provide each team with one of the patterns on pages 112-113 to design a coat of arms to display on headbands they will wear during the spelling bee.



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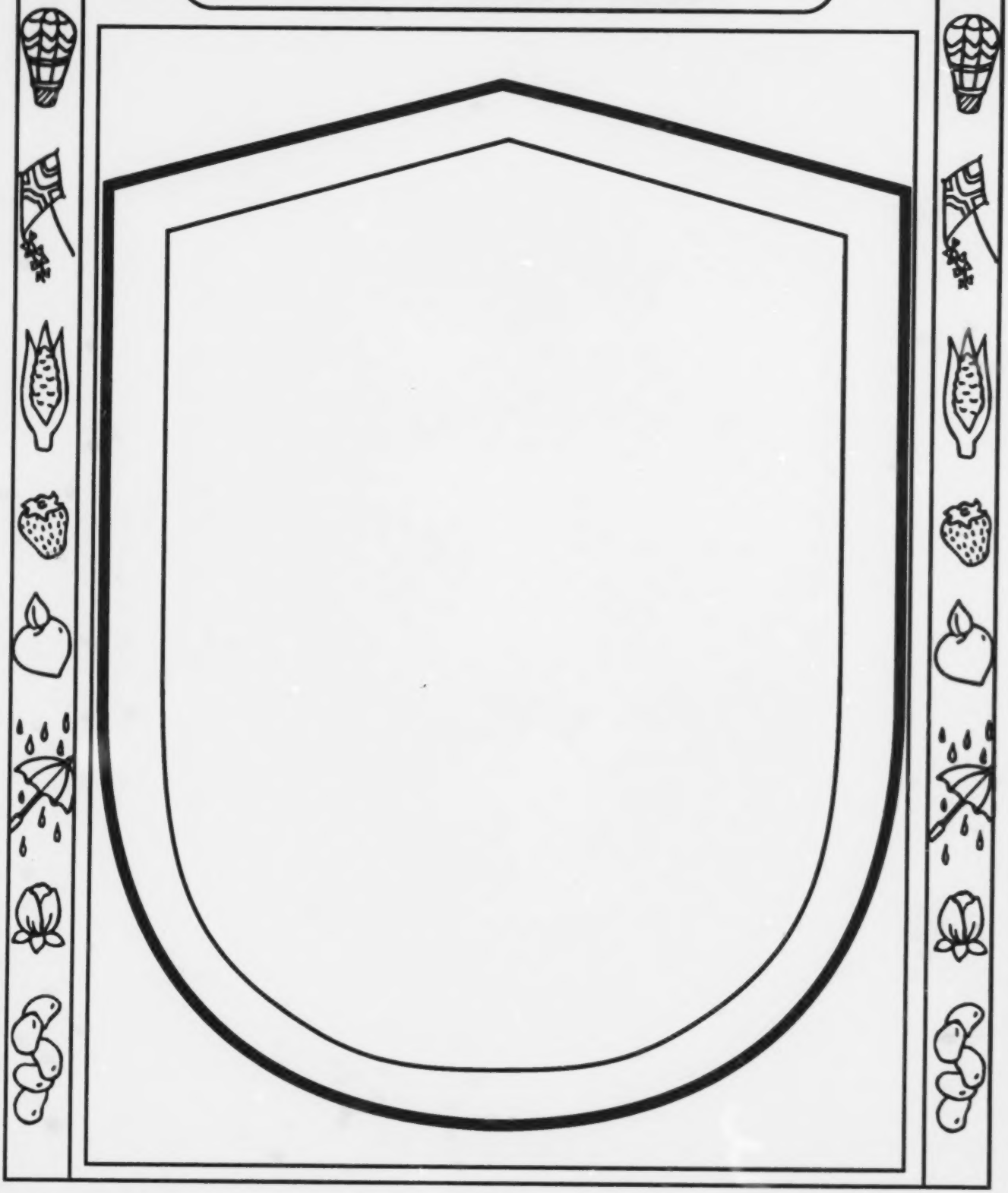
HOLIDAY TRADITIONS & LEGENDS

Coat of Arms Shield



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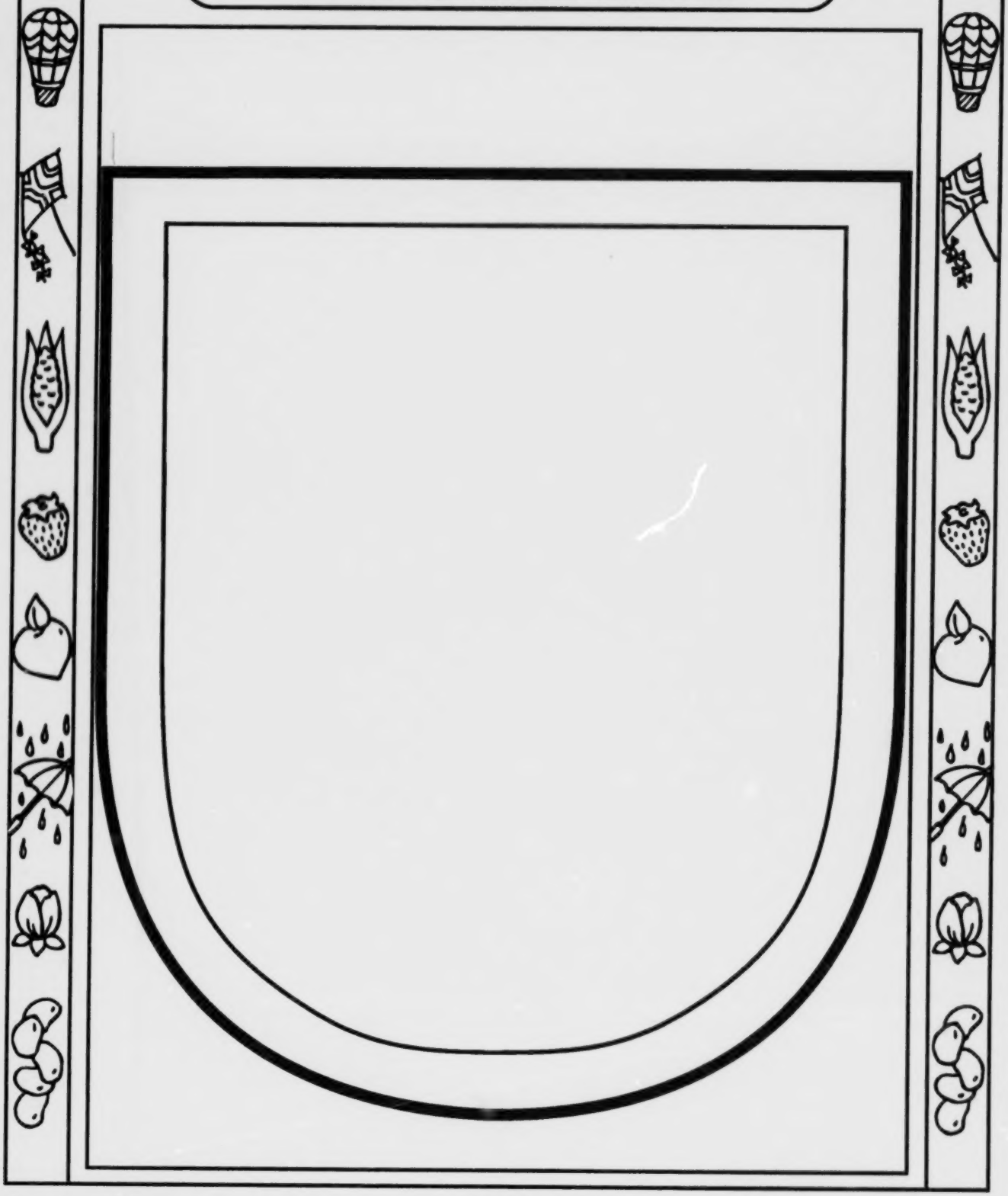
HOLIDAY TRADITIONS & LEGENDS

Coat of Arms Shield



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United States

The people of the United States celebrate many historical, traditional, and unique holiday celebrations throughout the year. Listed below are a few that occur during the spring and summer months. Additional spring and summer celebrations are listed on page 116.

National Bike Week

Many communities celebrate bicycling as a recreational activity and form of transportation during National Bike Week which occurs during the month of May. Share information with your class about the history of the bicycle which was invented in the late 1700's. Ask students to design the bicycle of the future. Provide crayons or markers and paper and encourage unique designs. Display the finished work on your bulletin board.

Earth Day

People celebrate Earth Day in both March and April. Although Earth Day has traditionally been observed on April 22, some groups have chosen to observe it on the day of the vernal equinox, the first day of spring. A growing number of people and organizations have dedicated themselves to restoring environmental wellness to the planet. Many of these groups have increased environmental awareness in relation to the air, water, land management, and species recovery and preservation.

Share information about environmental issues with your students. Research local endangered species (plant and wildlife) and provide open discussion for students to brainstorm activities which will enable them to make a difference.

National Ice Cream Week

Ice cream dates back to the mid 1500's. It was first introduced in the United States in the early 1700's but the recipe remained a secret for many years. It became a national favorite in the early 1900's. Share summer ice cream treats with your students during the month of July in celebration of National Ice Cream Week. Invite family volunteers to help make an ice cream smorgasbord. Prepare fixings for ice cream floats, sundaes, and banana splits. Include sprinkles, raisins, crushed cookies, fresh fruits, and syrups.

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United States

National Library Week
Introduce and reinforce the value of the library and the many services it provides. Plan library field trips for your class to celebrate National Library Week which occurs in mid-April.

Solicit student input to select a research topic. Have children list subtopics and related questions on index cards. Compile a list of questions for the library staff to prepare the staff for your students' visit. Be sure to emphasize that library staffs are able to answer a multitude of questions as well as cross-reference research topics in almost any field.

National Peanut Month
The month of March is National Peanut Month. Although not a nut but a pea, the peanut has been one of America's favorite "nuts" for many decades. Share information about peanuts including where and how they grow, and George Washington Carver's important role concerning the peanut and its uses.

National Pet Week
Pets of every variety are a favorite topic for children of all ages. Invite children to bring small pets as special guests to your classroom during the first week in May for National Pet Week. Encourage pet owners to share information about their pets including health, care, and recreational activities.

National Youth Art Week
National Youth Art Week occurs during the month of March to introduce and emphasize the value of art to all children. Many schools across the nation provide and encourage participation in city, county, and statewide art exhibits and competitions. Children's book publishers also sponsor national art competitions for talented students.

Display a contemporary still life on a table in the center of your classroom during the month of March. Include items that interest children in your class as well as new and unusual items. Supply an art station with a variety of materials for students to use. Invite students to choose an interesting view to paint, color, or draw. Frame artwork with paper towel roll halves cut lengthwise and covered with colored construction paper.

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United States

Year of the Native American

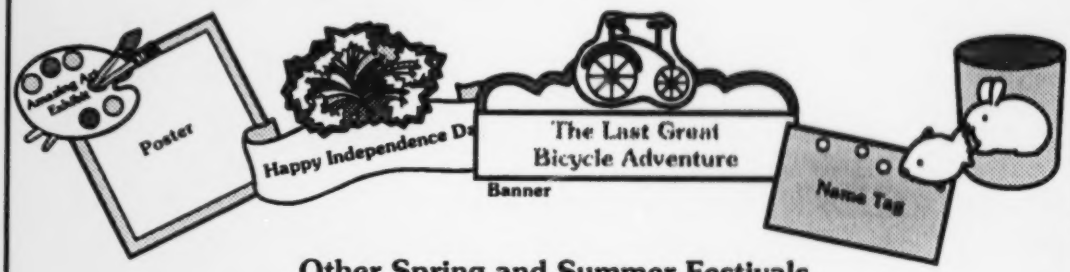
Presidential proclamation named 1992 the Year of the Native American. Several Native American groups celebrate special days and traditional holidays during the spring and summer months.

Visit your public library for audio tapes of Native American music to use as background music as you share information about Native American communities with your class.

Preparing for a Classroom Festival

Invite your class to designate one week during the spring or summer for a class festival. Also suggest one of the special events listed below. Reproduce the patterns on pages 117-118 for students to use as templates. Provide a variety of craft supplies including lettering stencils for children to make signs, banners, and other accompanying displays and decorations to make their special day a success.

Use the take-home note on page 119 to ask for family volunteers to help the class plan and prepare for their festival. Invite families and other students to join in the festivities.



Other Spring and Summer Festivals

National Teenagers' Day
Paul Bunyan Day
Paul Revere's Ride Anniversary
Memorial Day
Police Week
International Museum Day
Flag Day
Hot Dog Day
International Clown Week
All-American Soap Box Derby
Bald Eagle Day
Family Day
Friendship Day
Dream Day
Grandparents' Day
Kids' Day
National Mustard Day
National Aviation Week
National Chicken Month
National Courtesy Month
National Honey Month
National Oral Hygiene Month
National Piano Month
National Frisbee Disc Festival

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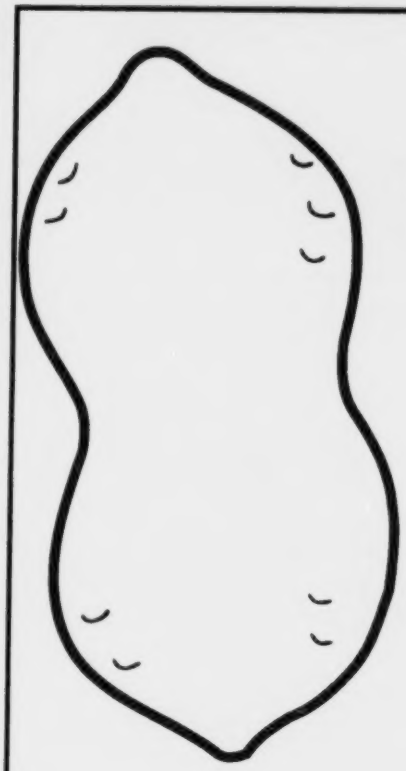
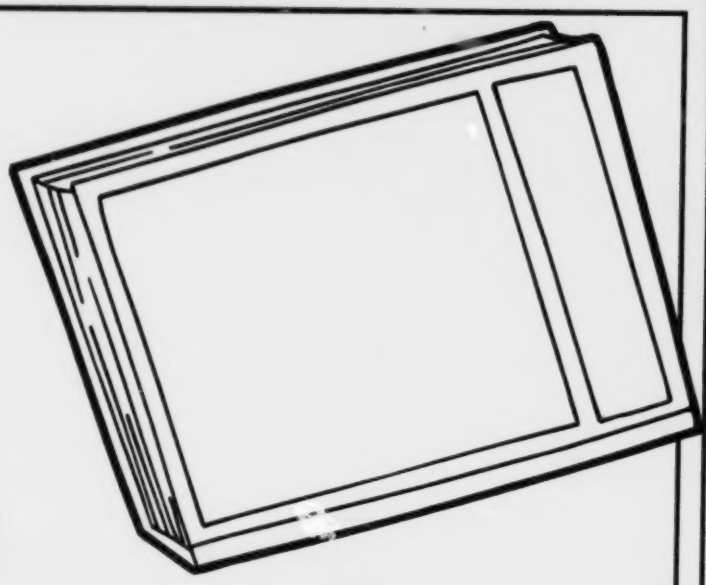
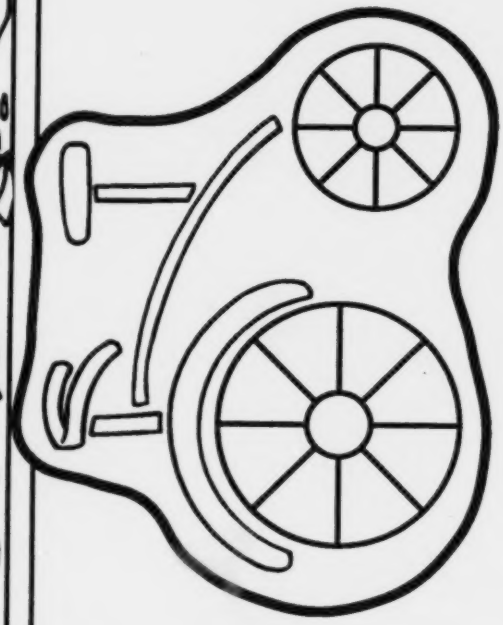
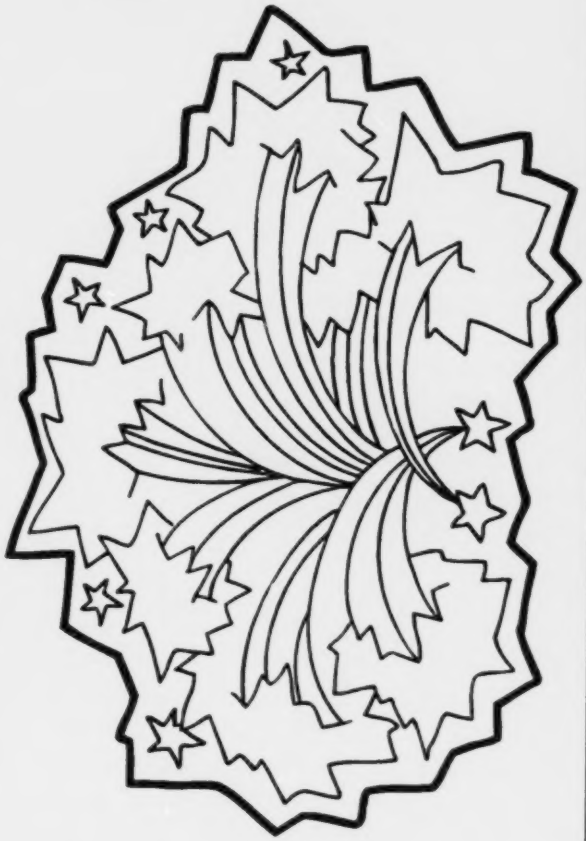
HOLIDAY TRADITIONS & LEGENDS

Open Festival Patterns









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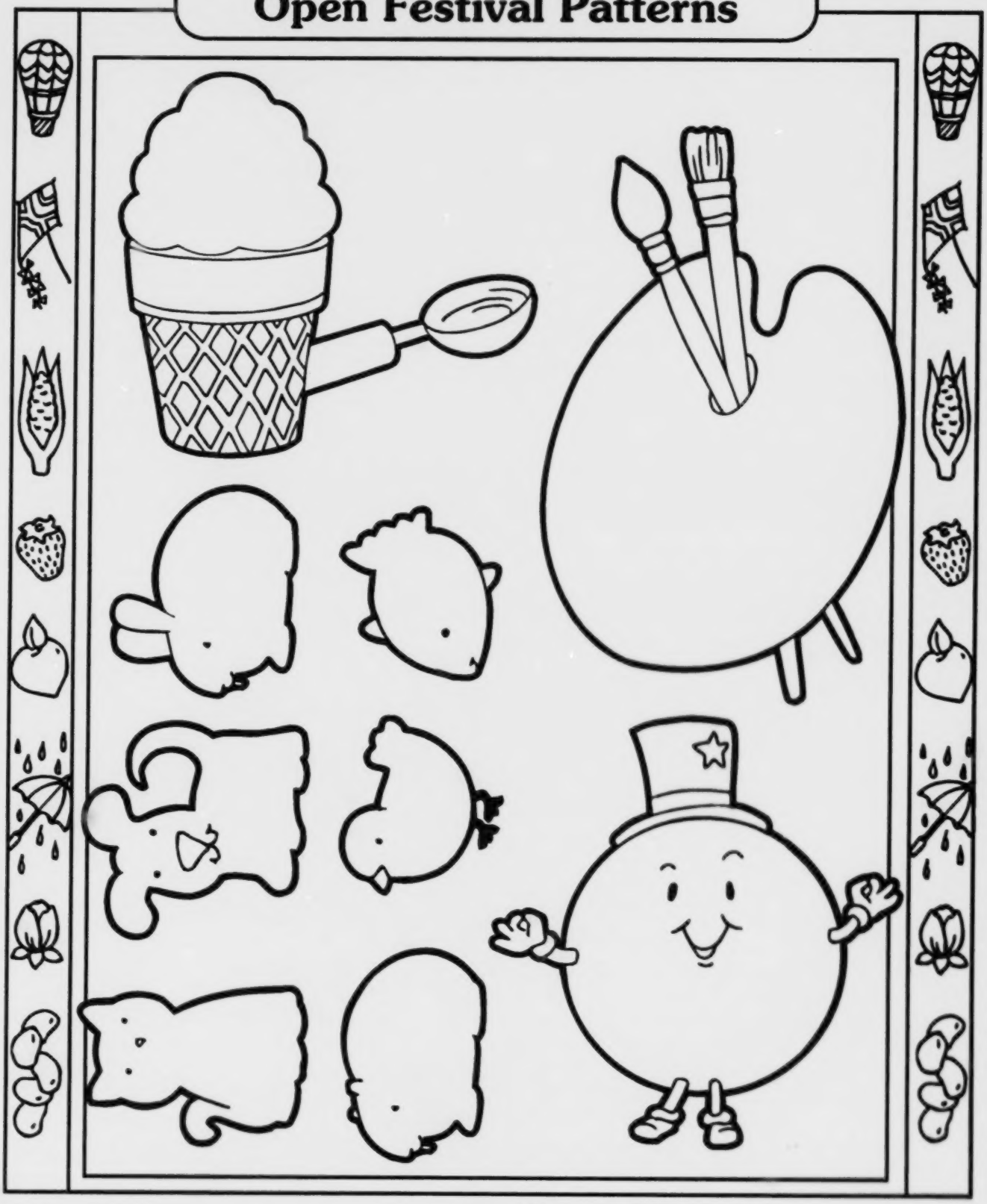
HOLIDAY TRADITIONS & LEGENDS

Open Festival Patterns



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A TAKE-HOME NOTE FROM
NORTH AMERICA

_____

Date

Dear _____,

We are _____

_____.

Please _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Thank you!

_____

Teacher

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SOUTH AMERICA

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HOLIDAY TRADITIONS & LEGENDS

South America

South American countries celebrate numerous holidays during the spring and summer months. Many are of religious origin and are often colorful and elaborate. Some celebrations originated during the reign of ancient cultures and include a variety of unusual festival ceremonies that have been adapted to modern cultural development and changes.

Sealing the Frost	Guatemala	Fiesta del Mar	Uruguay
Salute to the Sun	Peru	Semana Criolla	Uruguay
Corn Planting Ceremony	Guatemala	Aguas de Oxalá	Brazil
San Toribio	Peru	Día del Bibliotecario	Chile

Peru

Peru celebrates Independence Day from July 28 to August 1. Festival activities include parades, fireworks, agricultural exhibits, and street fairs. One community stages a battle between a condor and a bull. In other communities, games such as greased pole climbing and magical jars, which is similar to Mexico's piñata, are played. Jars filled with prizes, dirt, and ashes are hung for blindfolded contestants to strike.

Venezuela

In Venezuela, descendants of native cultures celebrate a unique harvest festival known as *Baile de las Tura*, Dance of the Flutes. At the end of each harvest season, the people hold a ceremony to elect new supervisors to oversee the harvest. All activities are accompanied by the sound of reed flutes. The festivities last for several days, ending with a traditional dance ceremony.

Chile

Chile gained its independence from Spain in the early 1800's. The Chilean people celebrate with parades, dancing, and rodeos. The men dress as *huasos*, cowboys, and the women wear calico skirts. Both men and women carry a handkerchief.

Chilean rodeos are not spectacular events. However, Chilean cowboys dress in elaborate costumes consisting of high-heeled boots topped with leather fringe, oversized spurs, a striped short jacket or cape, and a wide-brimmed hat with a short crown.

Visit the public library or local music shops to obtain an audio tape of Chilean folk music. Provide brown grocery bags, poster board, construction paper, and cloth scraps. Using an overhead projector, enlarge the patterns on page127 so students can make colorful costumes to wear in an imaginary horse race to celebrate Chilean Independence Day.

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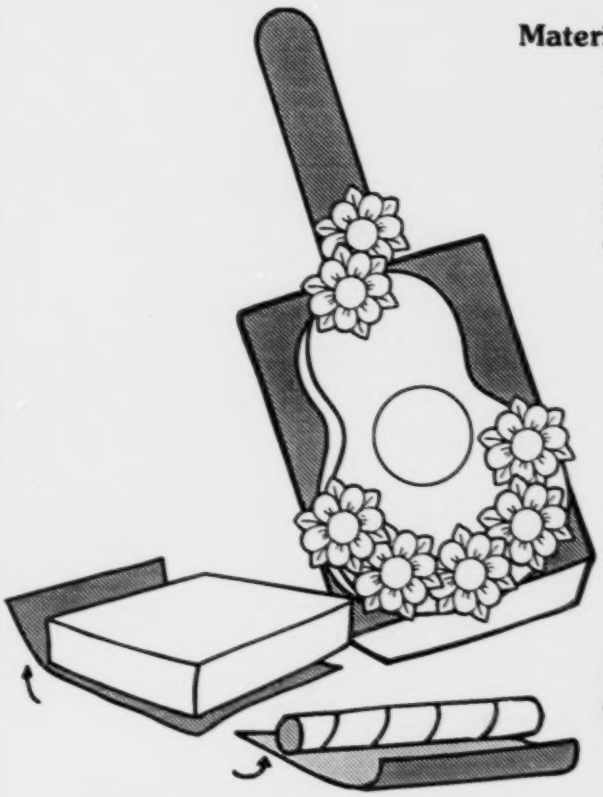
HOLIDAY TRADITIONS & LEGENDS

El Salvador

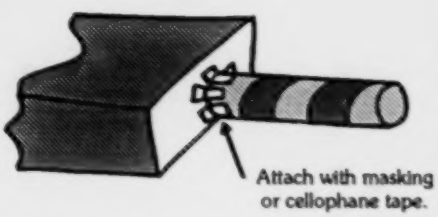
The people of El Salvador celebrate Flores de Mayo during the month of May in honor of a religious individual. Festivities begin early in the morning with the sound of guitars and marimba bands. The day continues with a parade of masqueraders, while festival participants toss candy and anise seeds to the crowds. The crowd returns the gesture by tossing flowers.

Use the take-home note on page 128 to ask parents to send large empty cereal boxes and paper towel rolls for students to make festive floral guitar displays.



Materials

crayons or markers
scissors
glue
cellophane tape
yarn
construction paper



Directions

1. Color and cut out the patterns.
2. Cover a cereal box and paper towel roll with construction paper.
3. Glue the guitar pattern to one side of the cereal box.
4. Attach the paper towel roll to the cereal box as shown.
5. Glue the flowers on the guitar.

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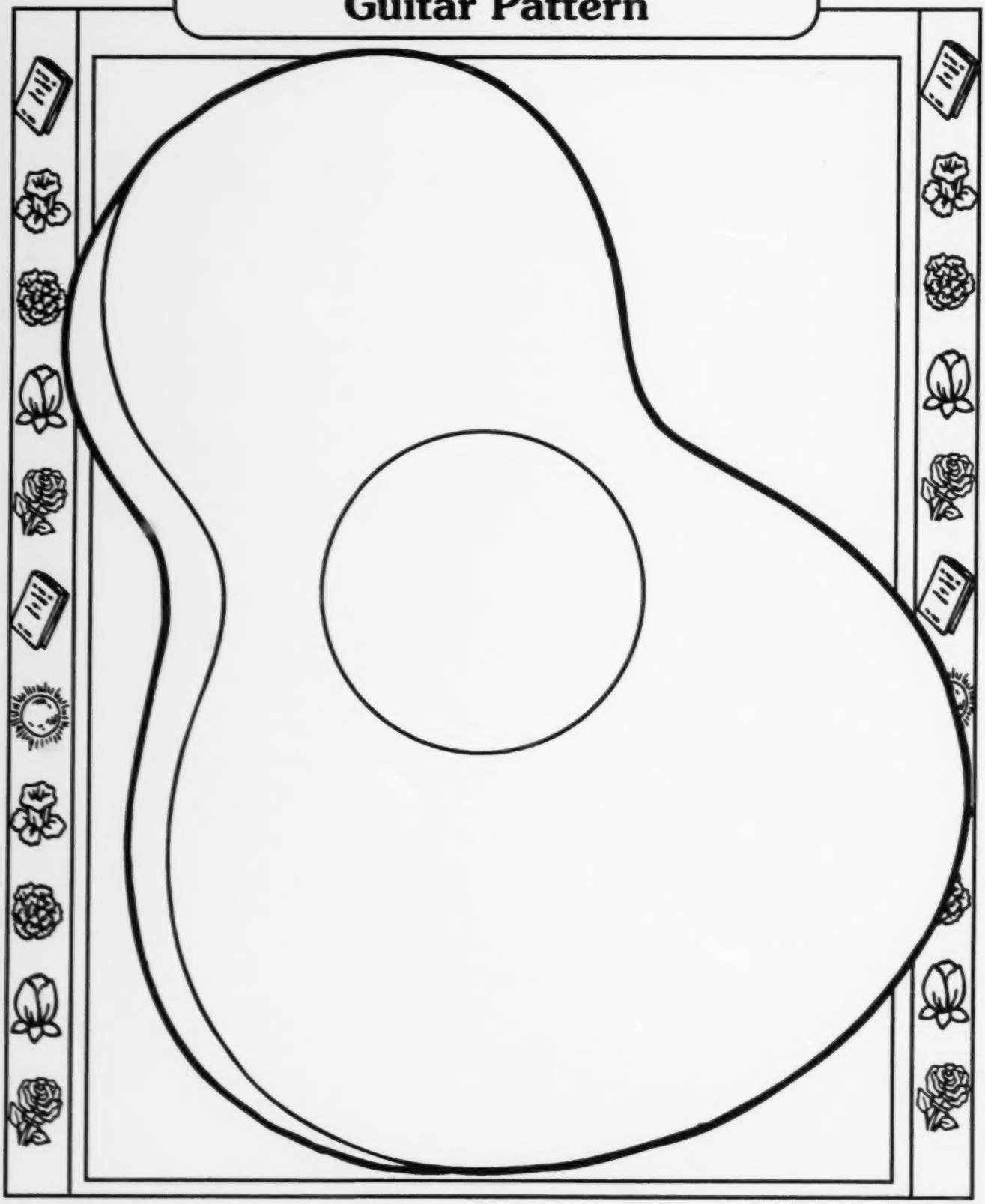
Guitar Pattern



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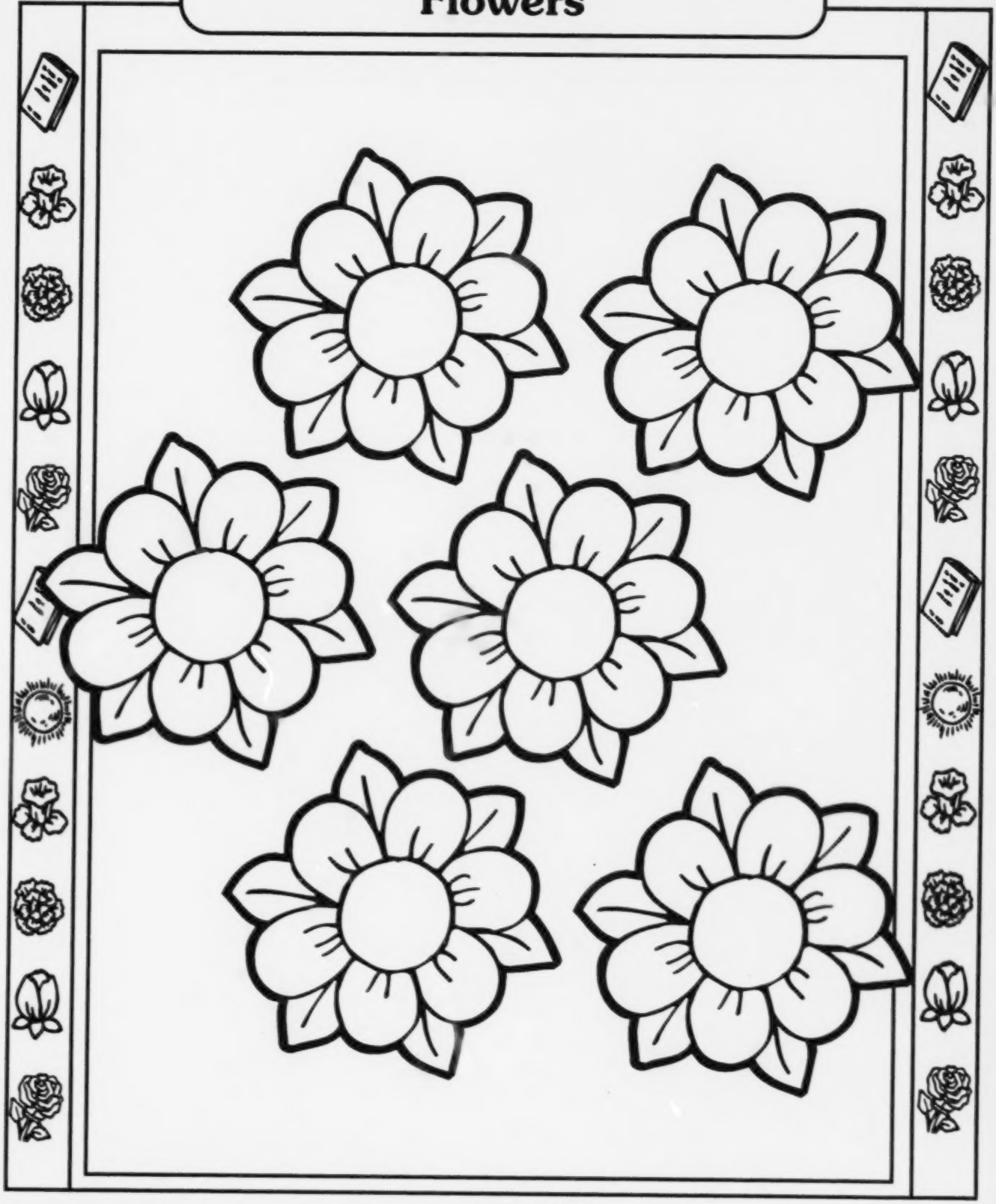
Flowers



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Día del Indio

Day of the Indian, known as Día del Indio, is a festival held in Peru during the summer. This elaborate festival includes participants from many areas of the country dressed in elaborate native Indian costumes. The people play music on harps, flutes, panpipes, guitars, and drums.

Provide students with the pattern on page 126 to decorate a variety of musical instruments. Contact your public library for audio tapes of Peruvian music. Children can accompany the tapes with their handmade instruments

Sounds of Music

Materials

- crayons or markers
- scissors
- glue
- aluminum pie tins
- paper towel rolls
- oatmeal containers
- craft sticks
- buttons
- yarn or ribbon
- elbow macaroni
- wallpaper scraps
- construction paper
- stapler

Staple or glue aluminum pie tins and plastic containers together to form shakers. Fill containers with beans or rice. String beads, buttons, or macaroni and attach to colorful paper towel rolls with a length of yarn. Use chop sticks or craft sticks to bang an oatmeal container or aluminum pie tin drum.

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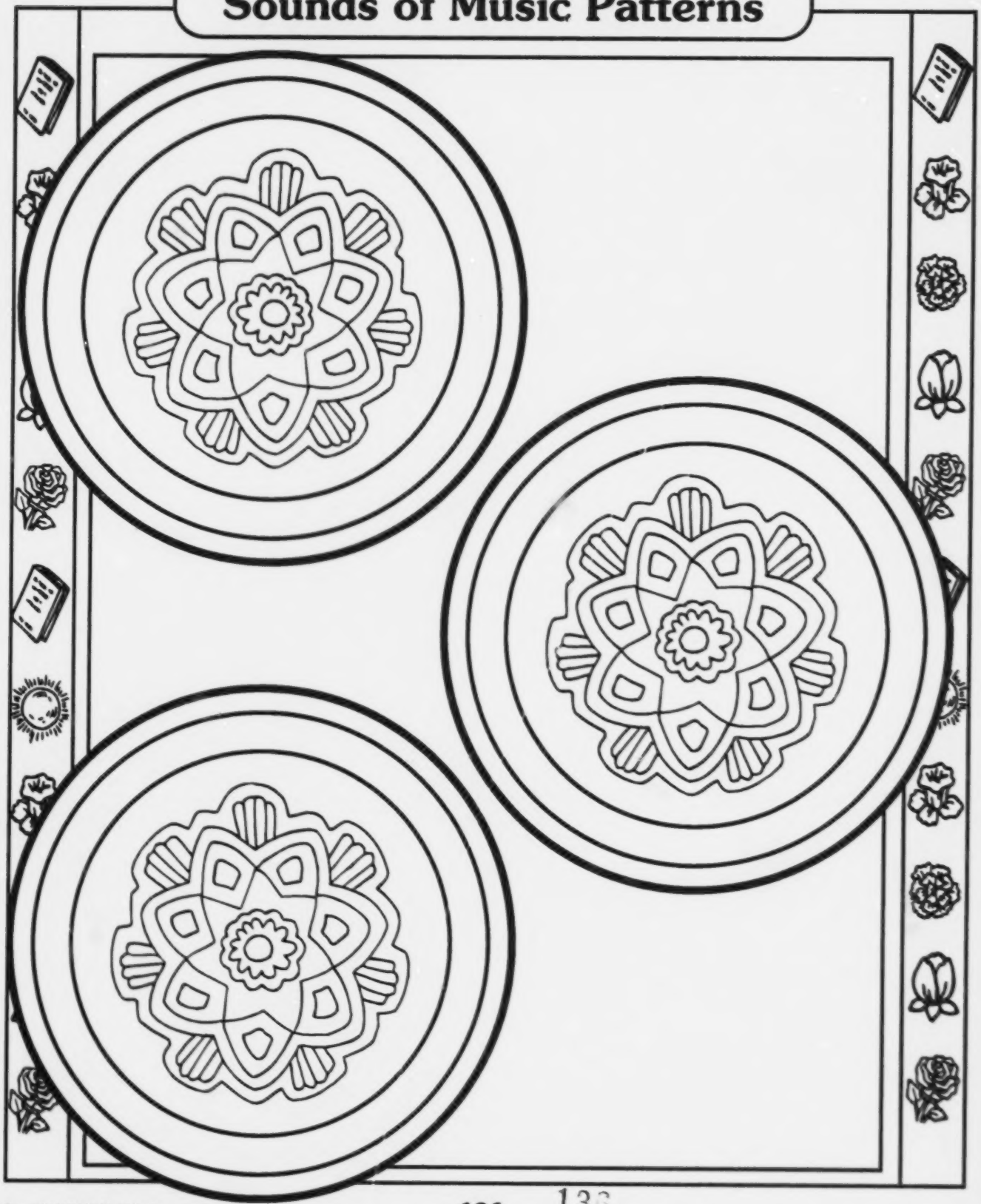
ORNAMENTS & DECORATIONS • PERU

Sounds of Music Patterns



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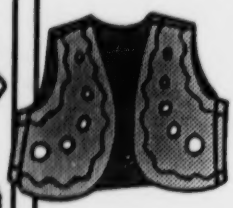
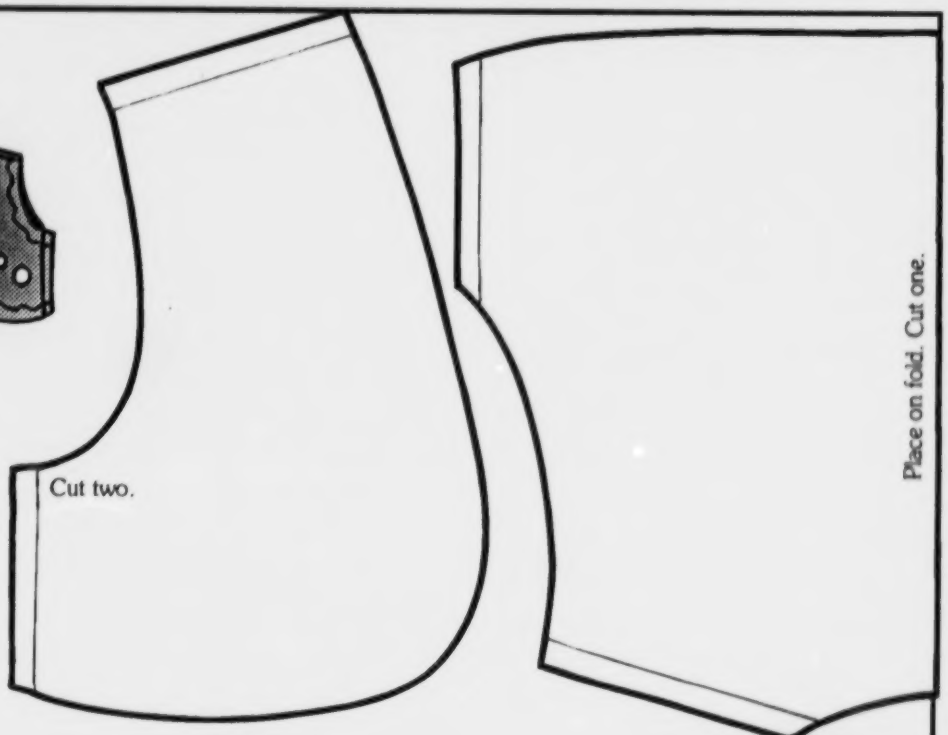
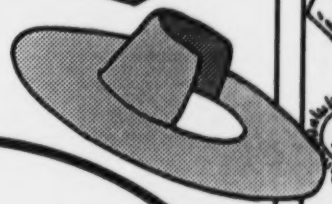
Vest and Hat Patterns

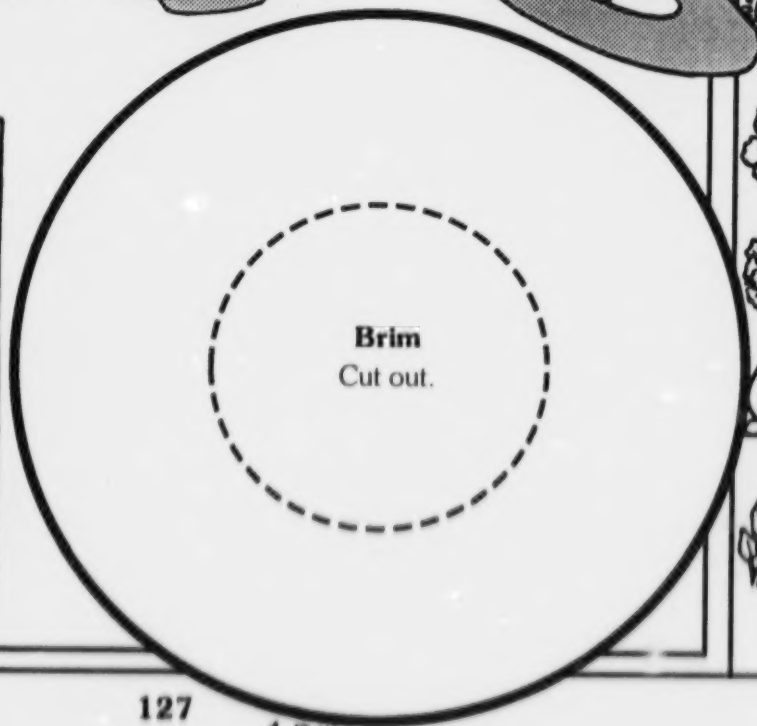




Enlarge and cut patterns from dark poster board.



Crown
Fold crown along solid line then cut slits along dotted lines.



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A TAKE-HOME NOTE FROM
SOUTH AMERICA

_____
Date

Dear _____,

We are _____

_____.

Please _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Thank you!

_____
Teacher

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AROUND THE WORLD

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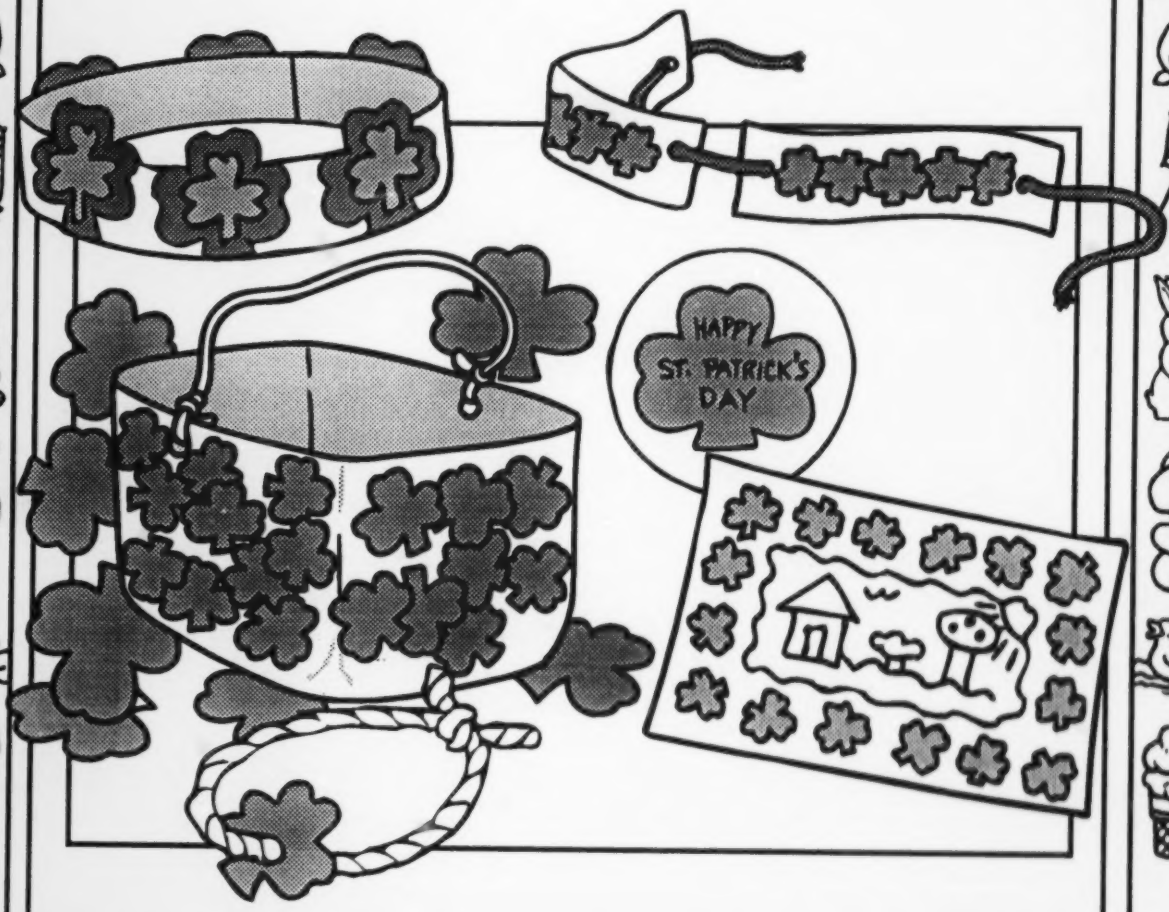
HOLIDAY TRADITIONS & LEGENDS

St. Patrick's Day

On St. Patrick's Day, many people wear green. The shamrock is associated with this celebration because St. Patrick used the shamrock to explain a Christian religious belief.

St. Patrick was born in Britain and raised in Ireland where he studied and taught Christianity. Legends tell us that St. Patrick was responsible for driving all the snakes out of Ireland.

Decorate your classroom with a bounty of shamrocks. Reproduce the directions and patterns on pages 131-133 so students can make shamrock decorations and displays. Provide students with shamrocks to make headdresses, bracelets, badges, and baskets from empty plastic milk containers.



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ORNAMENTS & DECORATIONS

Shamrock Ornaments

Shamrock Headdress

1. Cut a 2" x 24" (5 cm x 60 cm) white construction paper headband.
2. Wrap the headband to fit around your head and secure with tape.
3. Cut out and glue shamrocks around your headband.

Shamrock Badge

1. Cut a 4" (10 cm) circle from white construction paper.
2. Cut out a green shamrock.
3. Write your name or a greeting in the center of the shamrock.
4. Apply glue to the back of the shamrock and attach to the center of the circle.
5. Attach your badge with a safety pin or tape.

Shamrock Bracelet

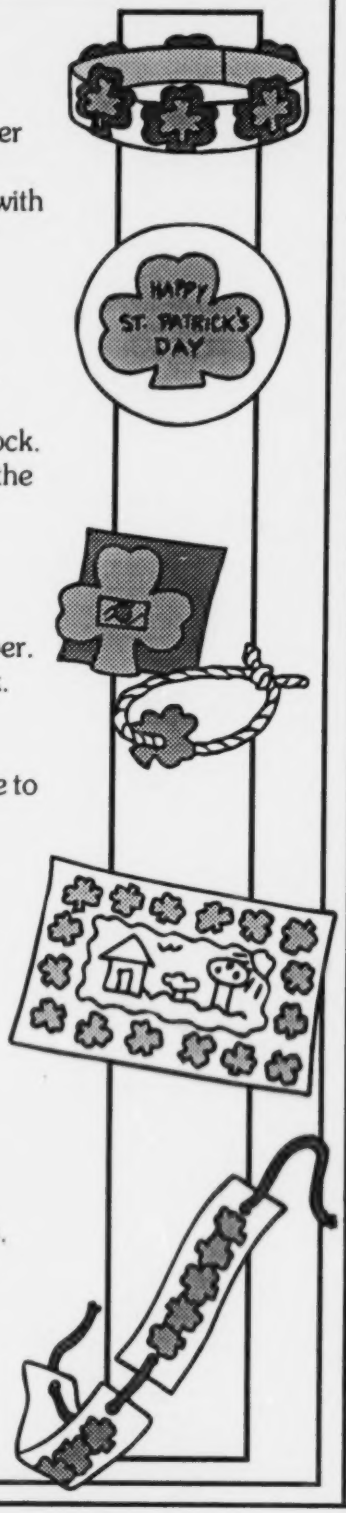
1. Cut out a small shamrock from green construction paper.
2. Apply a small strip of cellophane tape to the shamrock.
3. Punch a hole through the cellophane tape.
4. Cut a 8" (20 cm) length of green yarn.
5. Thread the yarn through the hole in the shamrock and tie to fit your wrist.

Shamrock Place Mat

1. Cut shamrocks from green construction paper.
2. Glue the shamrocks around the border of a 12" x 18" (30 cm x 45 cm) sheet of white construction paper.
3. Draw a picture in the center of the place mat.
4. Laminate your place mat.

Shamrock Garlands

1. Cut out several garland patterns.
2. Punch a hole at each dot.
3. Cut a length of yellow yarn to thread through the holes.
4. Add additional lengths of yarn to make a long garland.
5. Drape garlands throughout your classroom.



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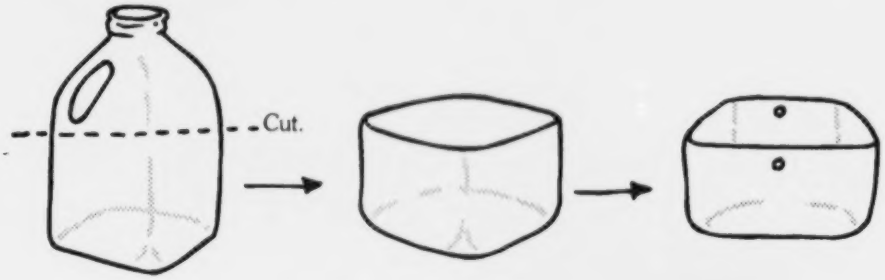
HOLIDAY GIFTS & GREETINGS

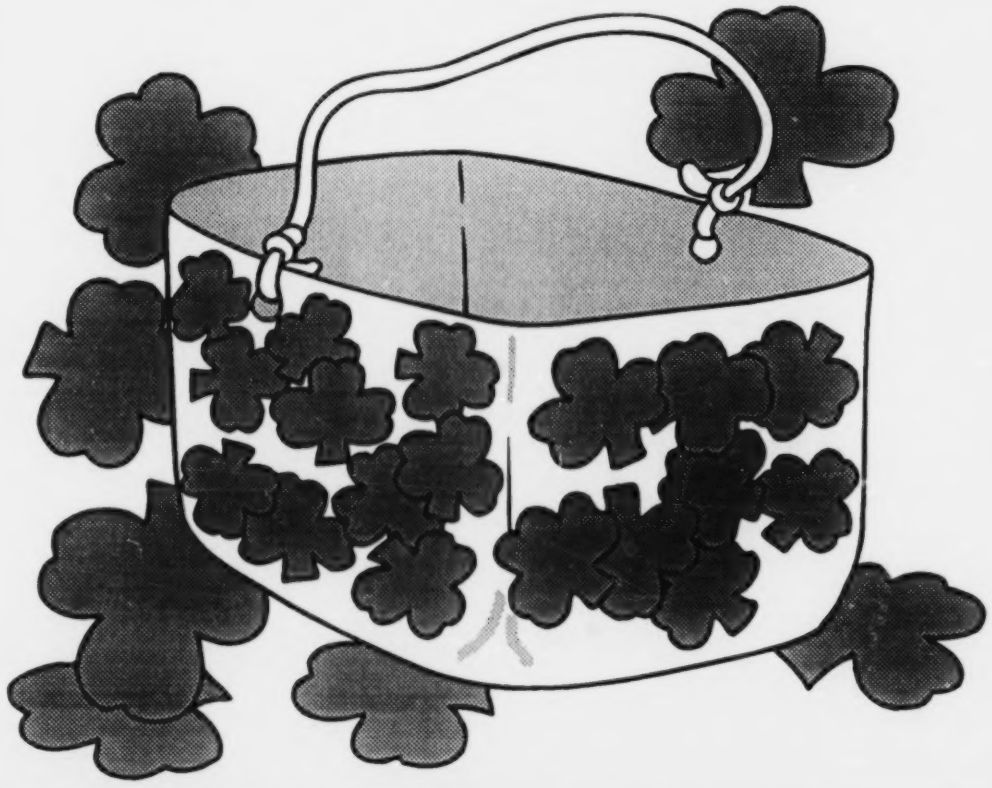
Shamrock Basket

Use the take-home note on page 185 to ask parents to send gallon milk containers to school. Prepare milk containers for students to make shamrock baskets. Cut off the tops of containers as shown below.

Provide students with shamrocks to color, cut out, and staple to the container. Punch two holes on opposite sides of the container to lace and tie yarn or ribbon for handles.

Students can use these baskets to carry craft supplies, as gifts, or for potted plants.





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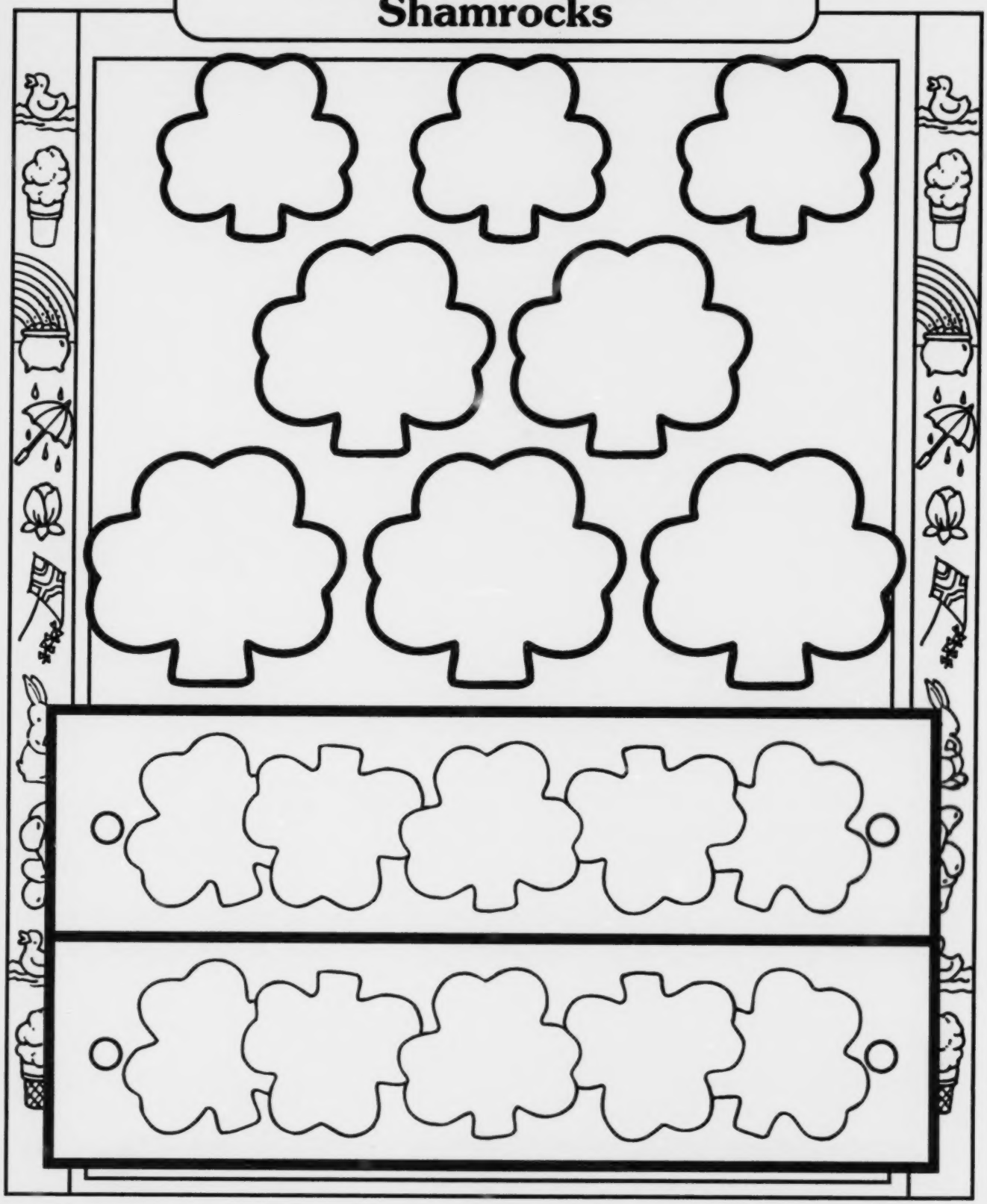
HOLIDAY GIFTS & GREETINGS

Shamrocks



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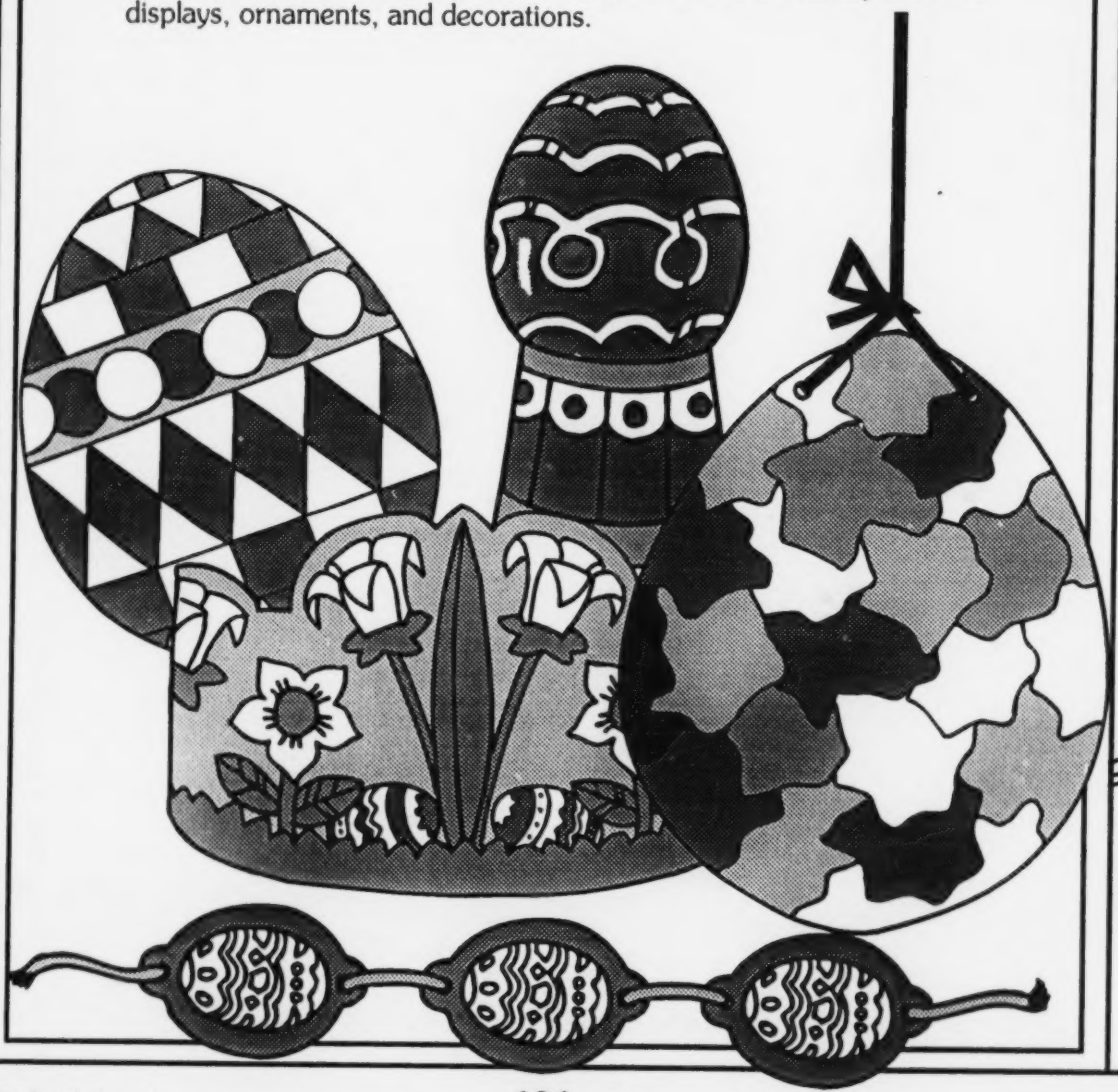
HOLIDAY TRADITIONS & LEGENDS

Easter

Many countries around the world celebrate the Christian holiday of Easter. The celebration commemorates a special religious event that occurred thousands of years ago. Traditionally, people attend worship services and follow various religious customs related to this holiday.

Coloring eggs and egg games became associated with the festivities hundreds of years ago. Children from America, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Ireland, the Ukraine, and many other countries decorate eggs, and play egg tossing, rolling, and hunting games. Whatever the activity, eggs are believed to bring good fortune.

Reproduce pages 135-145 for your students to make a variety of Easter displays, ornaments, and decorations.



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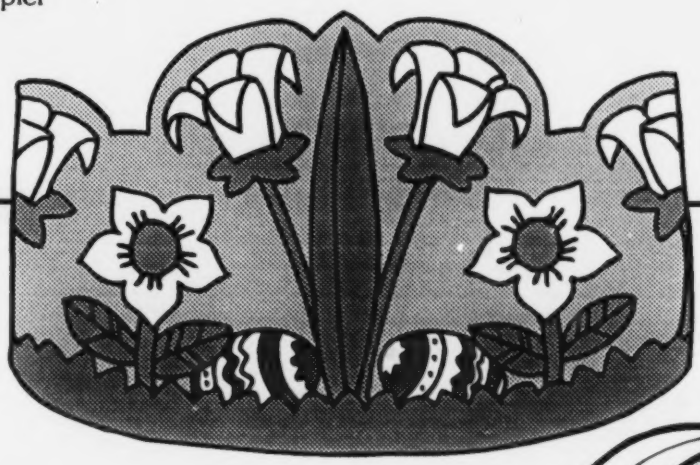
HOLIDAY GIFTS & GREETINGS

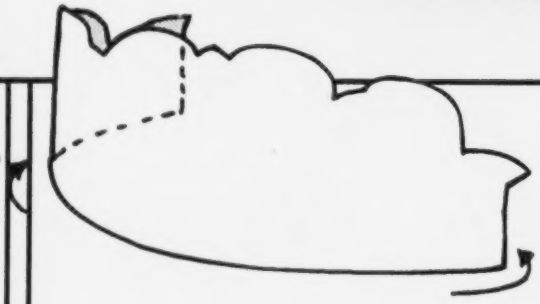
Easter Centerpiece

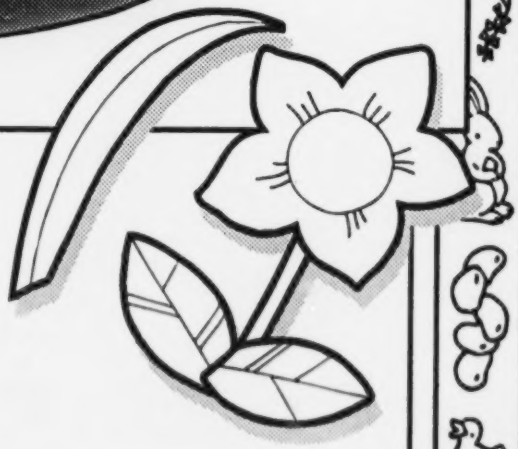
Provide each child with the patterns on pages 135-139 to make an attractive centerpiece to take home.

Materials

12" x 18" (30 cm x 45 cm) sheet of construction paper
crayons or markers
scissors
glue
stapler







Directions

1. Color and cut out the patterns.
2. Tape the two base patterns together.
3. Glue the flowers and leaves where indicated.
4. Roll and staple the ends as shown to form a round centerpiece.

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HOLIDAY GIFTS & GREETINGS

Easter Centerpiece

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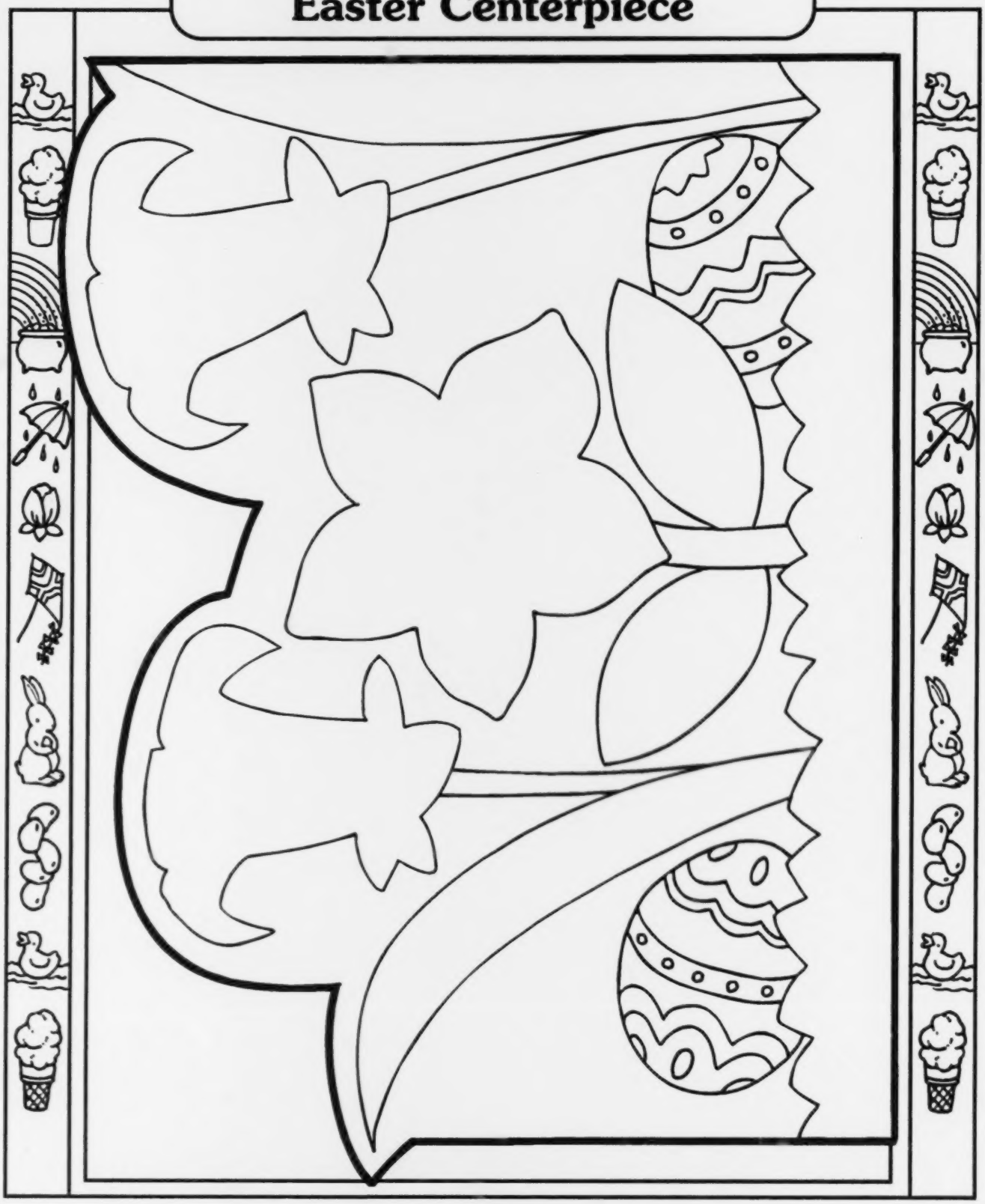
HOLIDAY GIFTS & GREETINGS

Easter Centerpiece



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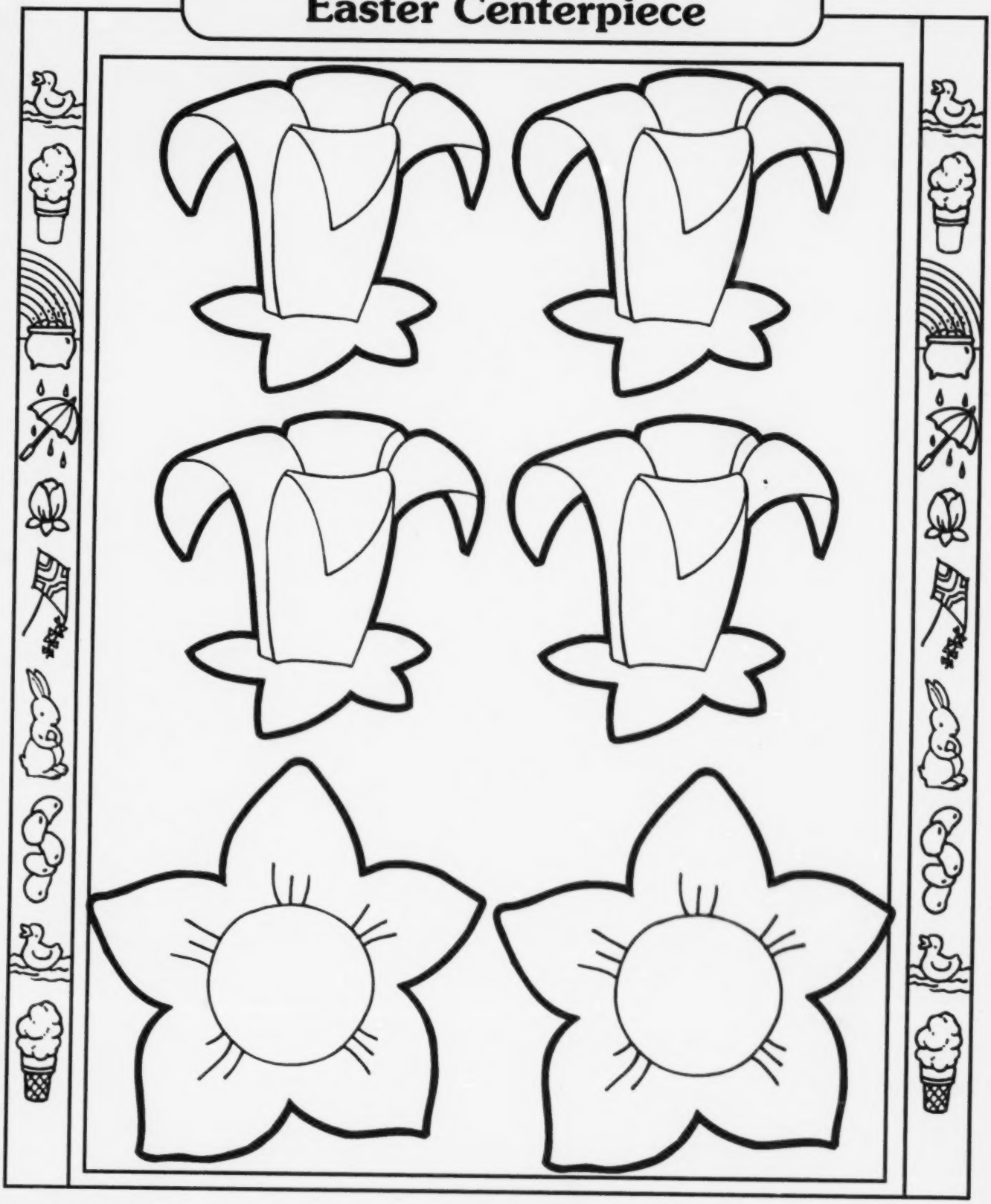
HOLIDAY GIFTS & GREETINGS

Easter Centerpiece



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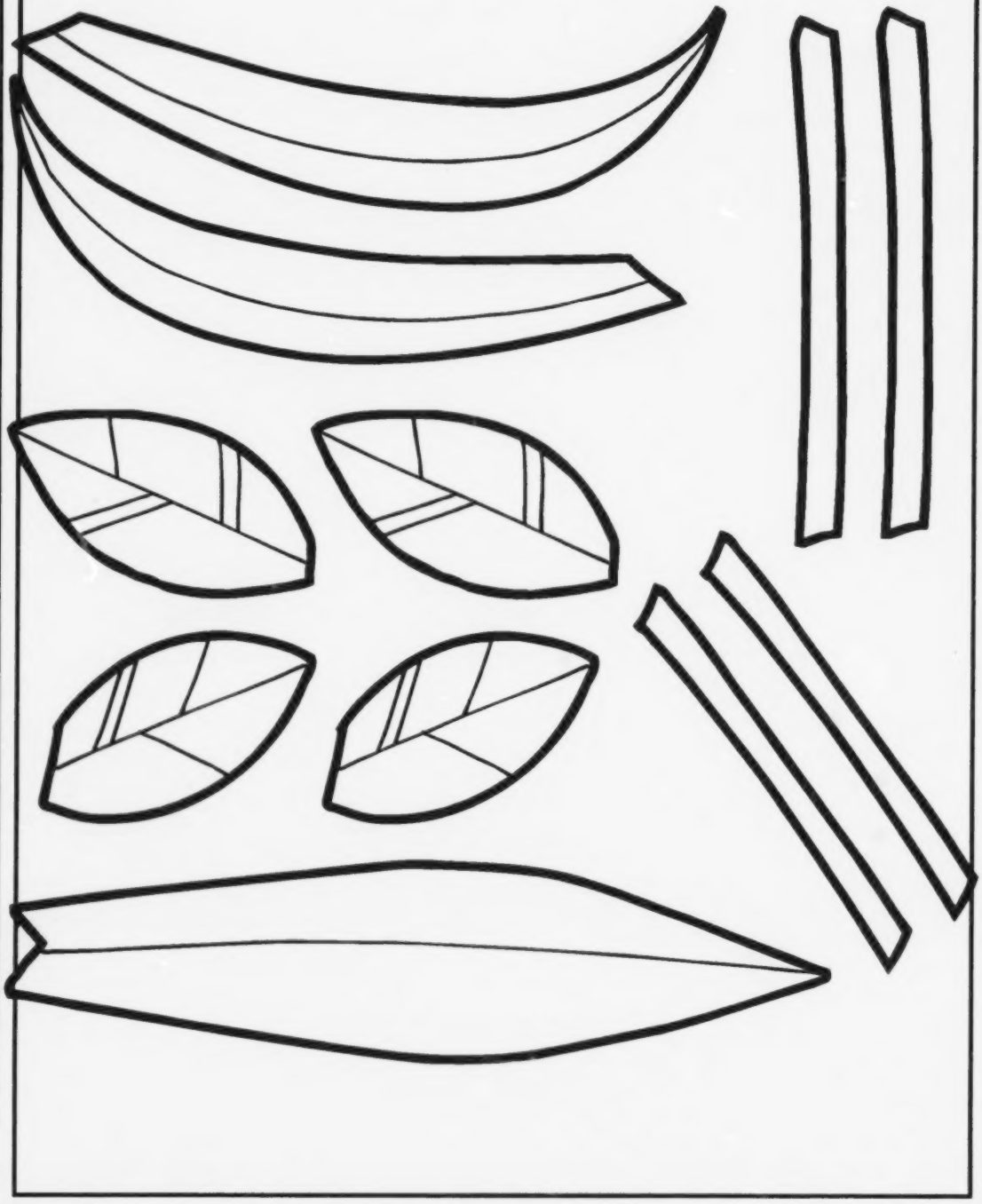
HOLIDAY GIFTS & GREETINGS

Easter Centerpiece



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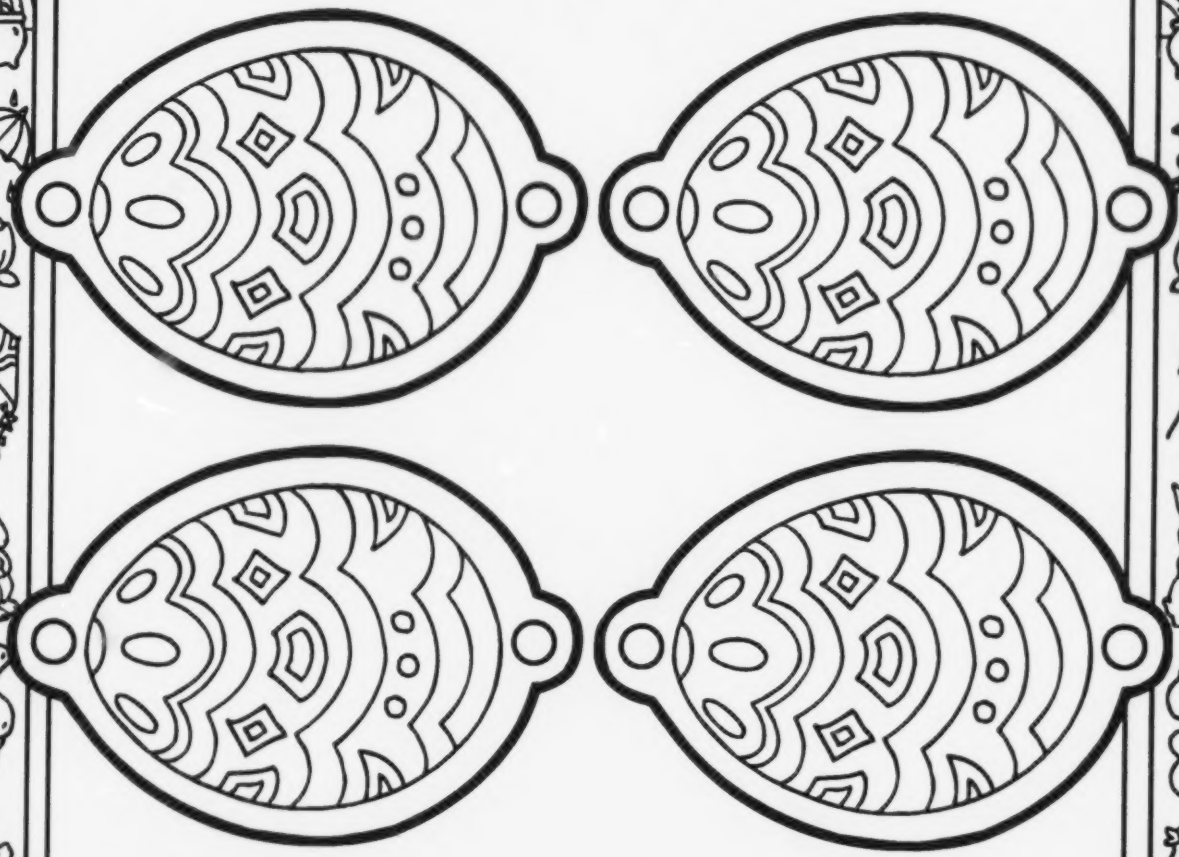
Egg Garlands

Materials

crayons or markers
scissors
hole punch
yarn or ribbon



Directions

1. Color and cut out the egg patterns.
2. Punch a hole at each dot.
3. Cut a length of yarn or ribbon.
4. Thread yarn or ribbon through the holes in each egg to form a garland.
5. Tie additional lengths of yarn for a long garland.

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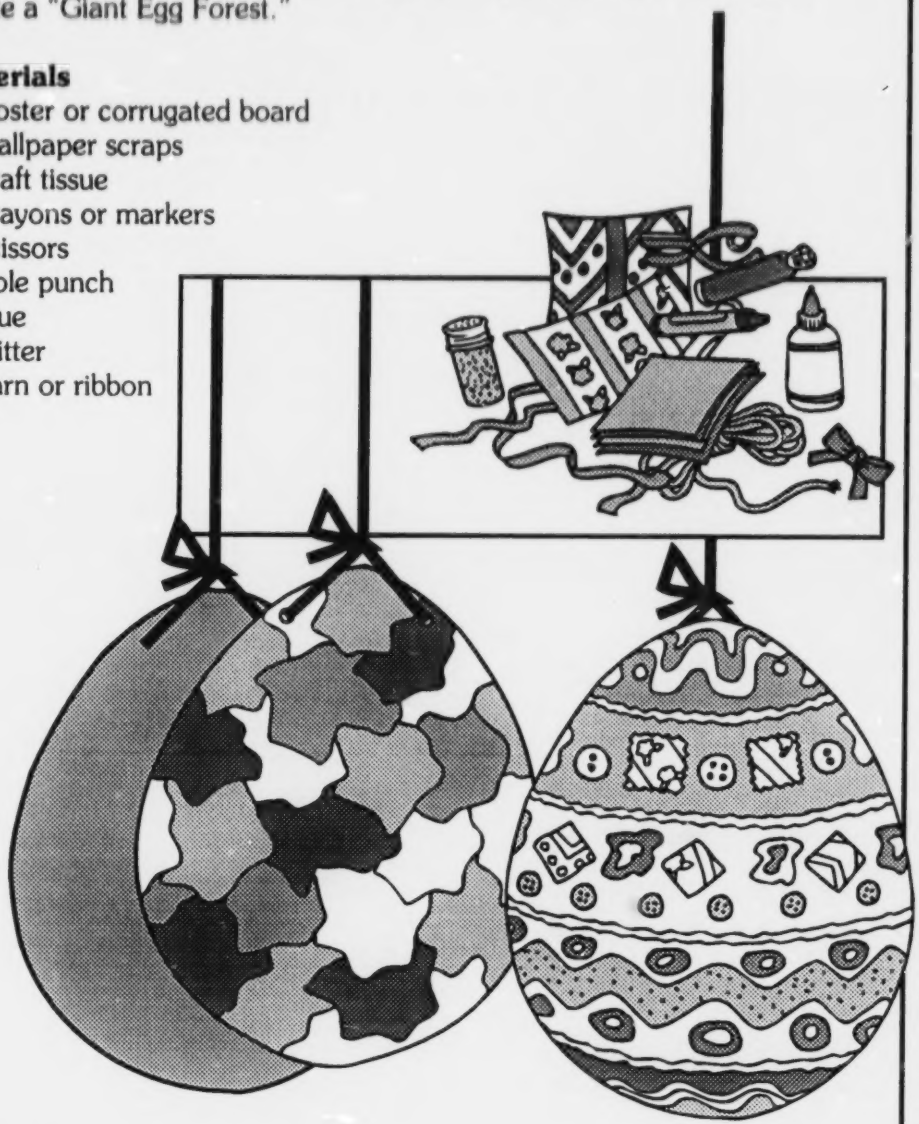
ORNAMENTS & DECORATIONS

A Giant Egg Forest

Provide students with the materials listed below and a giant egg pattern to use as a template. Hang finished eggs from your classroom ceiling to create a "Giant Egg Forest."

Materials

poster or corrugated board
wallpaper scraps
craft tissue
crayons or markers
scissors
hole punch
glue
glitter
yarn or ribbon



Directions

1. Cut a giant egg from poster or corrugated board.
2. Color and decorate the egg.
3. Punch two holes at the top of the egg.
4. Cut, thread, and tie a 36" (90 cm) length of yarn or ribbon through each hole.

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HOLIDAY GIFTS & GREETINGS

Blue Eggs

Once upon a time people used natural substances to dye eggs. Use the take-home note on page 185 to ask for volunteers to help children dye eggs with blueberries. Boiled onion skins and walnut shells were other sources of natural dyes.

Have children wear smocks or plastic trash bags over their clothes. Prepare several workstations with empty egg cartons, spoons, birthday candles, lard, and a container filled with crushed blueberries.

Directions

1. Children draw simple designs or shapes on eggs using a birthday candle. (The candle wax drawings will resist the dye.)
2. Have each child use a spoon to gently mix and turn his or her egg in the crushed blueberries.
3. Instruct the children to carefully remove the eggs and place them in an empty egg carton until dry.
4. Prepare a bowl of water warm enough to slightly melt the candle wax.
5. Show children how to immerse their eggs and wipe off the candle wax using a cloth or paper towel.
6. Use a cloth with a small amount of lard to rub a sheen on finished eggs.
7. Display blue eggs in a giant nest made from shredded green construction paper.

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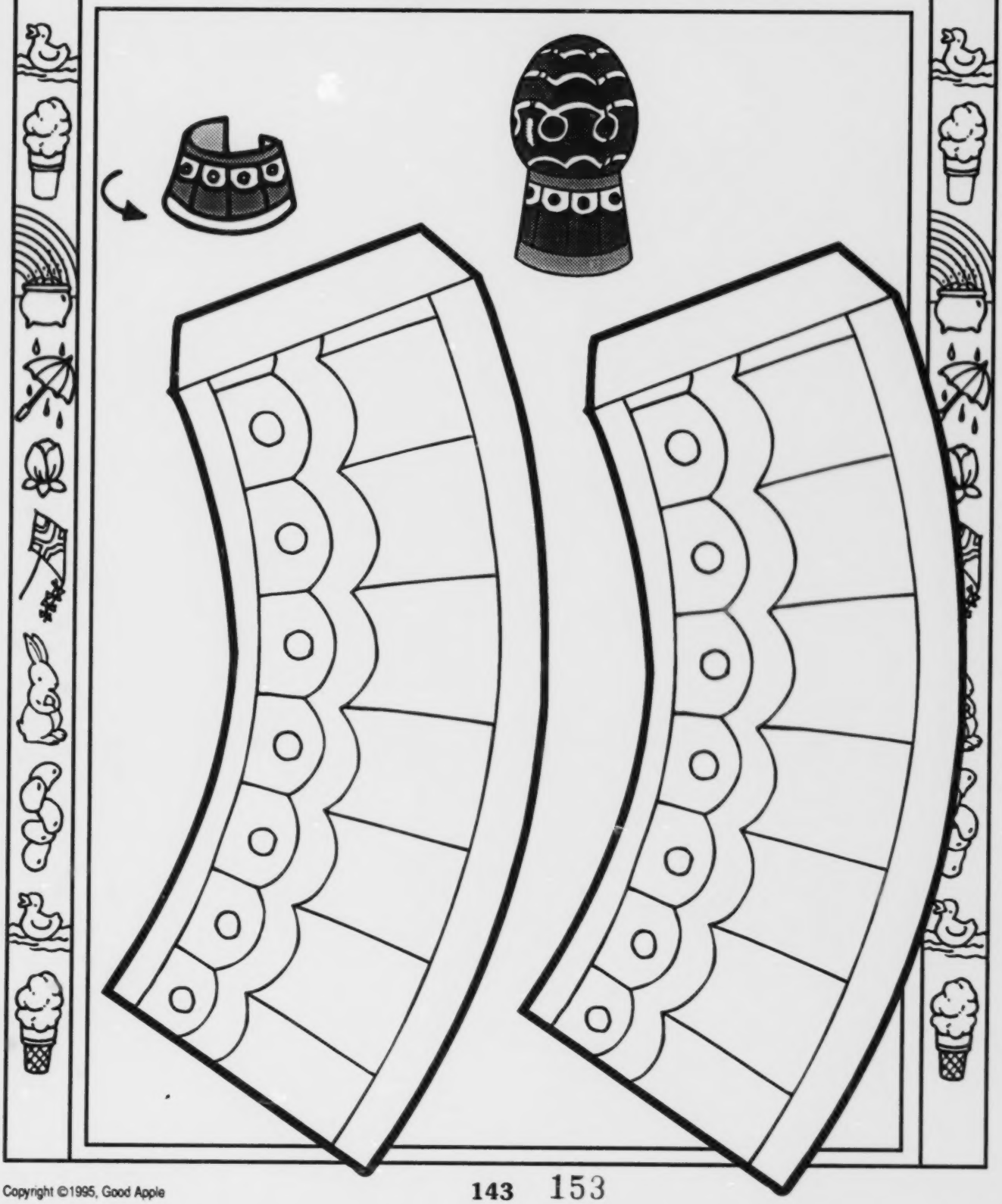
HOLIDAY GIFTS & GREETINGS

Egg Stand



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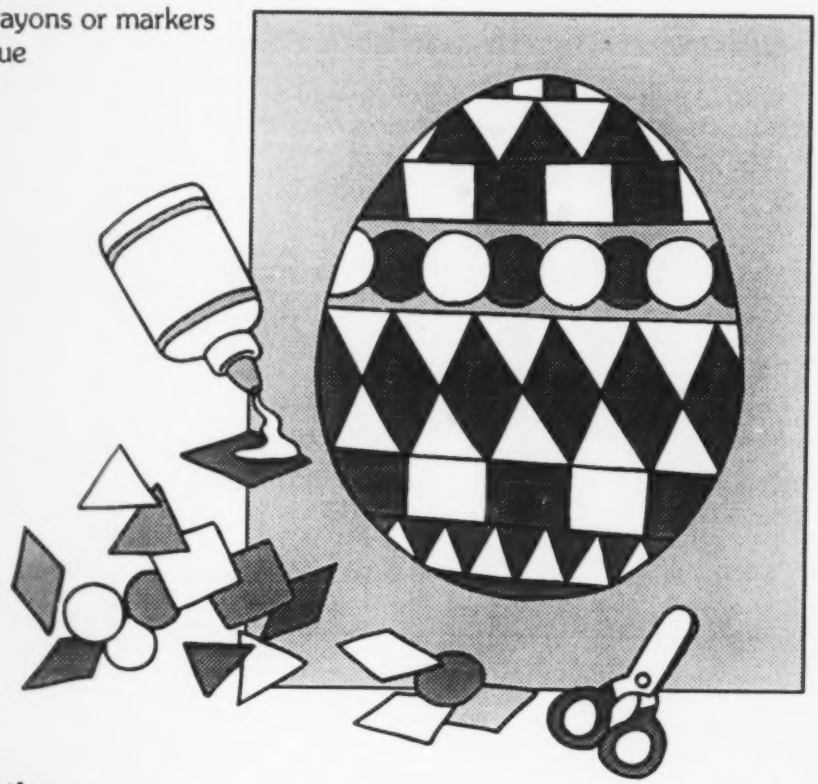
ORNAMENTS & DECORATIONS

Cut Paper Eggs

In Hana, Moravia, goose eggs are decorated with straw squares, triangles, diamonds, and narrow rectangles. These decorated eggs are called *slamenky*. Reproduce and provide each child in your class with an oaktag egg form and the shape patterns on page 145 to make ornaments in the spirit of Moravia.

Materials

a 9" x 12" (22.5 cm x 30 cm) sheet of construction paper
scissors
crayons or markers
glue



Directions

1. Cut out the egg form.
2. Color and cut out the shape patterns.
3. Position the shapes in a creative design on your egg form.
4. Apply glue to the back of each shape and attach it to the egg form.
5. When the glue is dry, trim the shapes that extend past the edge of the egg form.
6. Apply glue to the back of your egg and attach it to the center of a sheet of construction paper.

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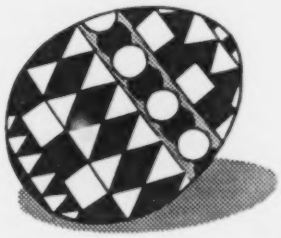
ORNAMENTS & DECORATIONS

Shapes



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HOLIDAY TRADITIONS & LEGENDS

April Fool's Day

Innocent pranks, tricks, and jokes are played on people by children in several European countries and in the United States on April Fool's Day. However, in most countries there is a limit, and persons who continue pranking are called April fools.

France

French children stick paper fish called poisson d'avril (April Fish) on other children's backs.

Scotland

In Scotland, people play a game called Huntigowk Day. A person is repeatedly sent on an errand with a message telling him or her to continue to hunt the gowk. The person often continues until he or she realizes that the errand is a prank. This game is somewhat like a wild goose chase.

United States

In certain areas of the United States, people play a game similar to Huntigowk. A group takes an unsuspecting person into the woods for a snipe hunt. Each person in the group searches in a different direction with a sack for a snipe. Everyone except the person being fooled exits the woods and waits to see how long it takes for the "April fool" to realize that there is no such thing as a snipe.

Other pranks played on April Fool's Day include short-sheeting, pretending that something was lost, forgotten, or something unusual has occurred. When unsuspecting people fall for pranks, the pranksters laugh and shout, "April Fool!"

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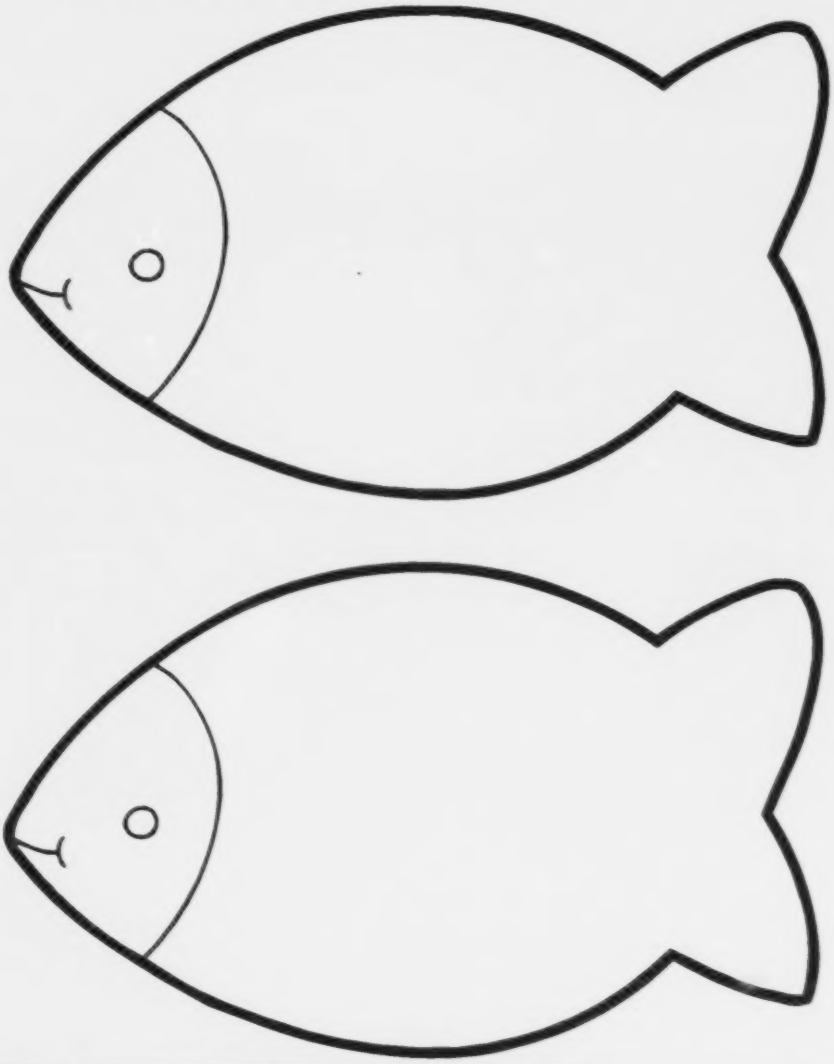
ORNAMENTS & DECORATIONS

April Fish

Color and cut out 2 fishbowl patterns and attach to two paper bags. Label the bags *April Fish Questions* and *April Fish Answers*. Then reproduce the fish patterns for students to write silly questions and matching answers on. Place the question and answer fish in the bags. During April Fool's Day, invite students to draw questions from the April Fish question bag.

Directions

1. Color and cut out the fish.
2. Write a silly question or joke on the fish.
3. Share it with your class.



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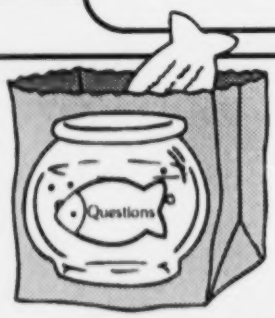
ORNAMENTS & DECORATIONS

April Fish Bowl



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HOLIDAY TRADITIONS & LEGENDS

Passover

Passover is a Jewish religious holiday celebrated in many countries. The activities of this day honor the memory of a special historical event.

During this eight-day celebration families clean their homes, prepare a traditional meal, and attend worship services.

The traditional meal, called a *Seder*, includes a ceremonial plate with foods that represent different aspects of the historical event (roasted egg, bitter herbs, greens, a mixtures of spiced fruits and nuts, and three *matzot).* Matzo is unleavened bread.

Provide your students with 12" x 18" (30 cm x 45 cm) sheets of construction paper, crayons or markers, scissors, and the patterns on pages 150-151 to make gift place mats. Laminate place mats before use.

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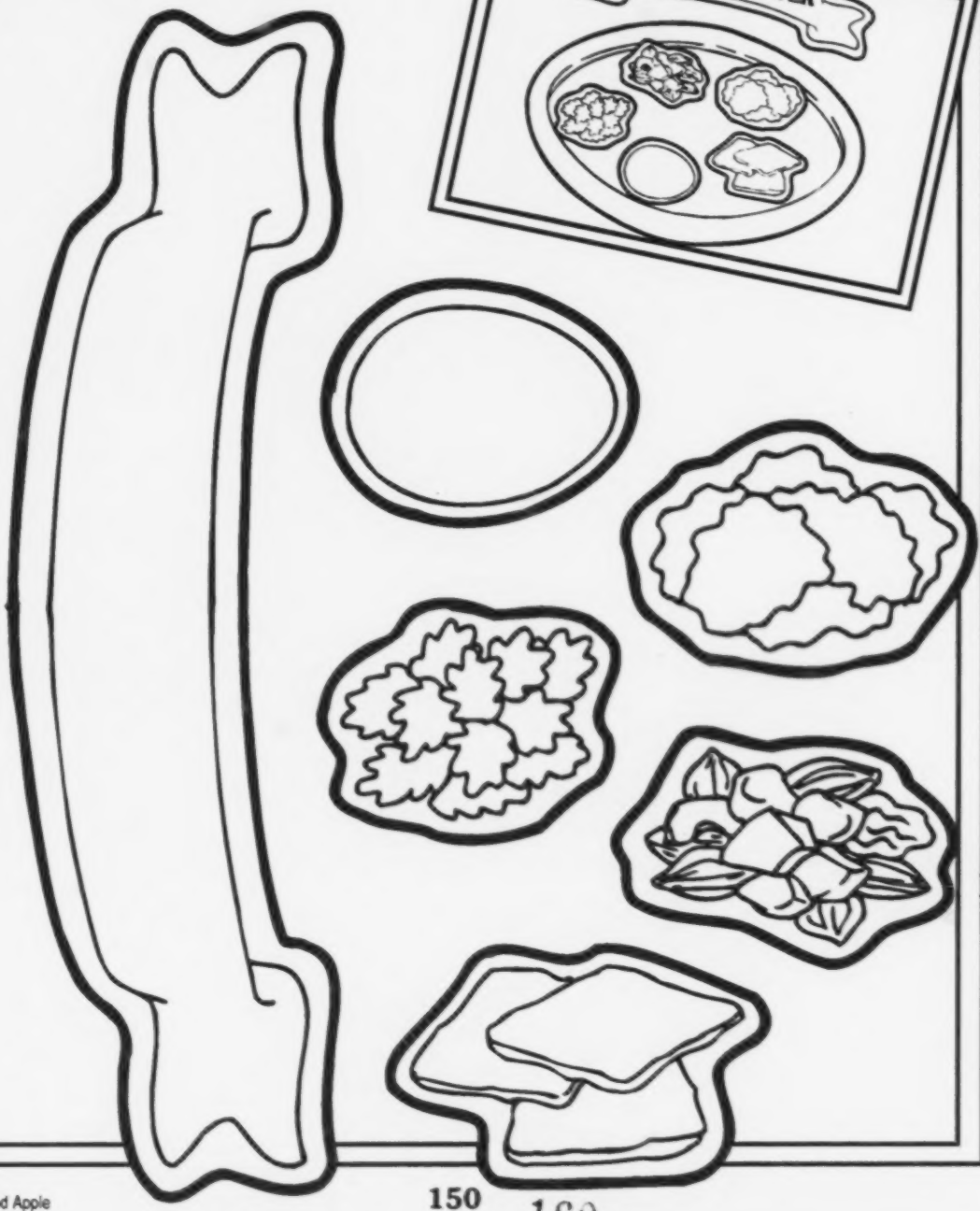
HOLIDAY GIFTS & GREETINGS

Place Mat Patterns

Directions

1. Color and cut out the patterns.
2. Apply glue to the back of the plate and attach it to the center of a sheet of construction paper.
3. Glue the food patterns on the plate.
4. Write a greeting on the banner.



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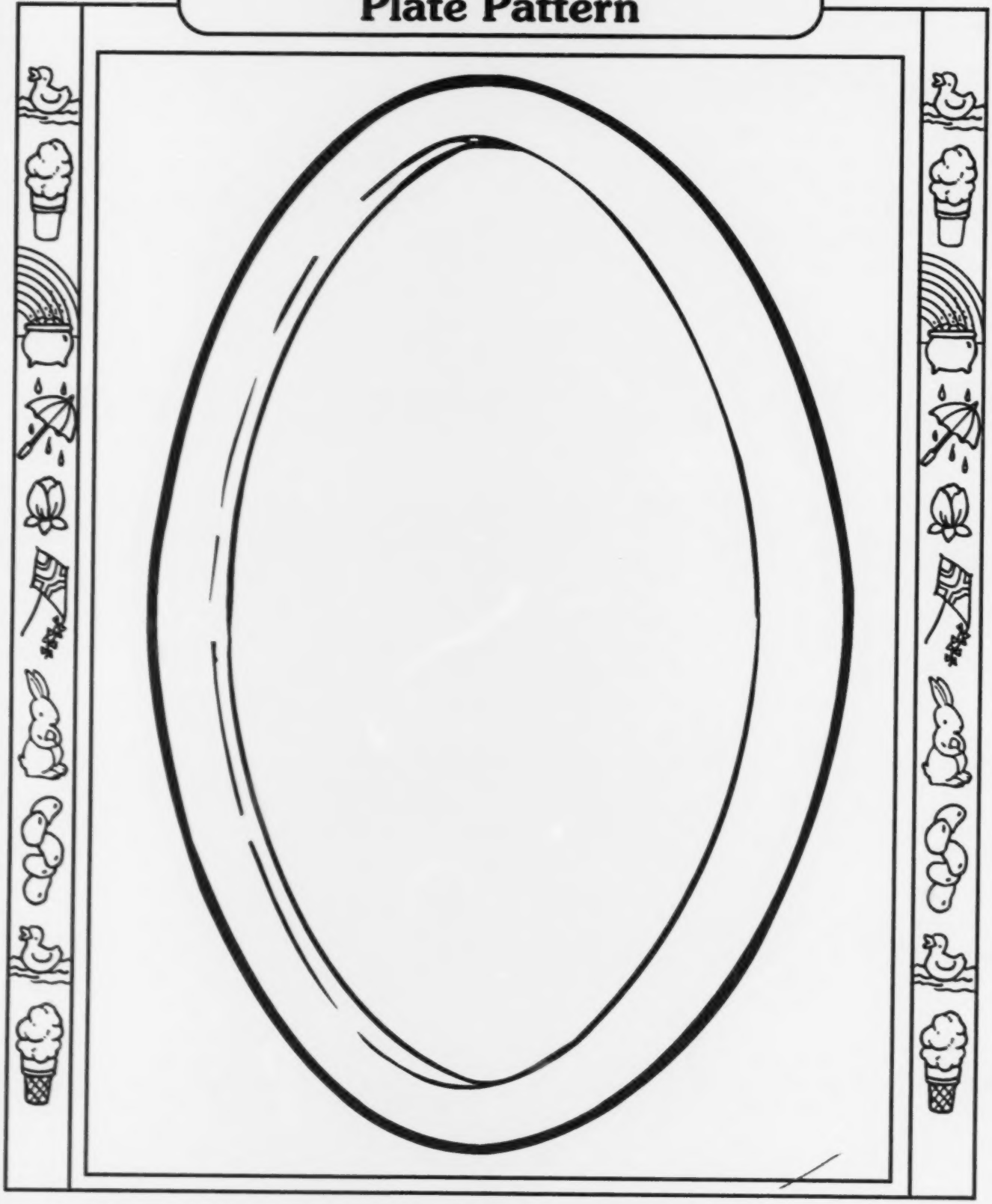
HOLIDAY GIFTS & GREETINGS

Plate Pattern



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HOLIDAY TRADITIONS & LEGENDS

May Day

May Day is celebrated in many nations around the world. It marks the renewal of life in early spring and the end of winter. The origins of May Day celebrations are often associated with the ancient Druids and the spring festivals of ancient Egypt and India.

In France, the first day of May is an especially festive occasion. In some areas, the people twine ribbons around maypoles and "trees" referred to as "mays" are planted everywhere. In certain communities, the people drink frothy May milk at dawn. It is believed that milk tastes better in May than any other time of the year.

During medieval times, the people of England decorated their homes with spring flowers. The people would sing spring carols and exchange spring gifts. They also crowned a May king and queen. Townspeople danced around the maypole, a tall pole fitted with long colorful ribbons, weaving the ribbons until the maypole was covered with bright colors.

In Italy, Switzerland, Germany, and Czechoslovakia, May Day was a time for courting. Boys would plant or place May trees and maypoles in their favorite girls' yards or under their windows.

In the United States, children decorate and give May basket gifts, sing, dance, and crown a May king and queen to preside over the festivities.

Use the take-home note on page 119 to invite parents to visit your class on May Day. Ask parent volunteers to help prepare strawberries and cream treats for the class. Then provide your students with the patterns on pages 153-154 to make maypole headdresses and May Day strawberry treat cups to share at the end of the day.

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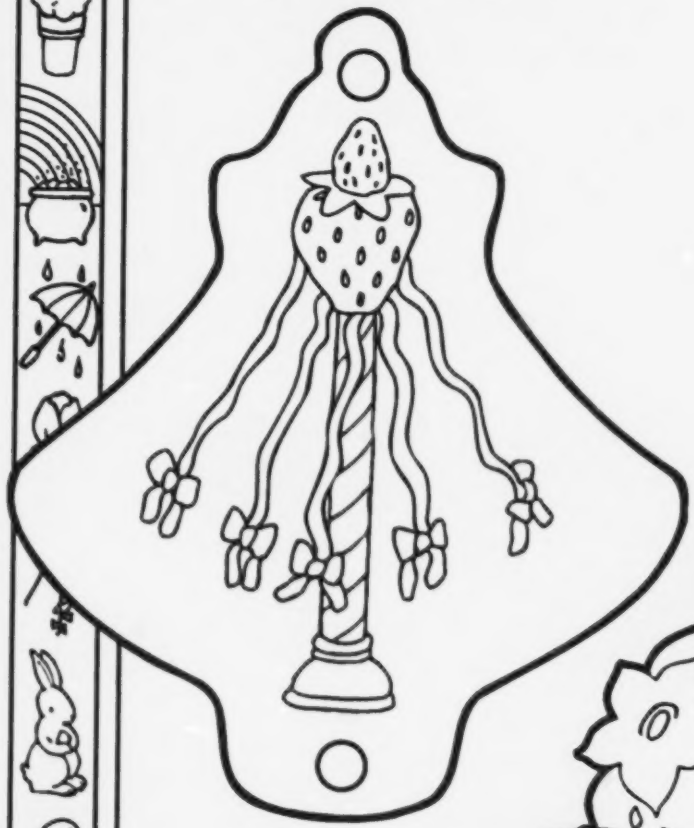
HOLIDAY COOKING

Strawberries and Cream

Provide children with the patterns below to make strawberry treat cups and maypole straw toppers. Fill treat cups with vanilla ice cream, garnish with cut strawberries, and insert strawberry maypoles in the center.



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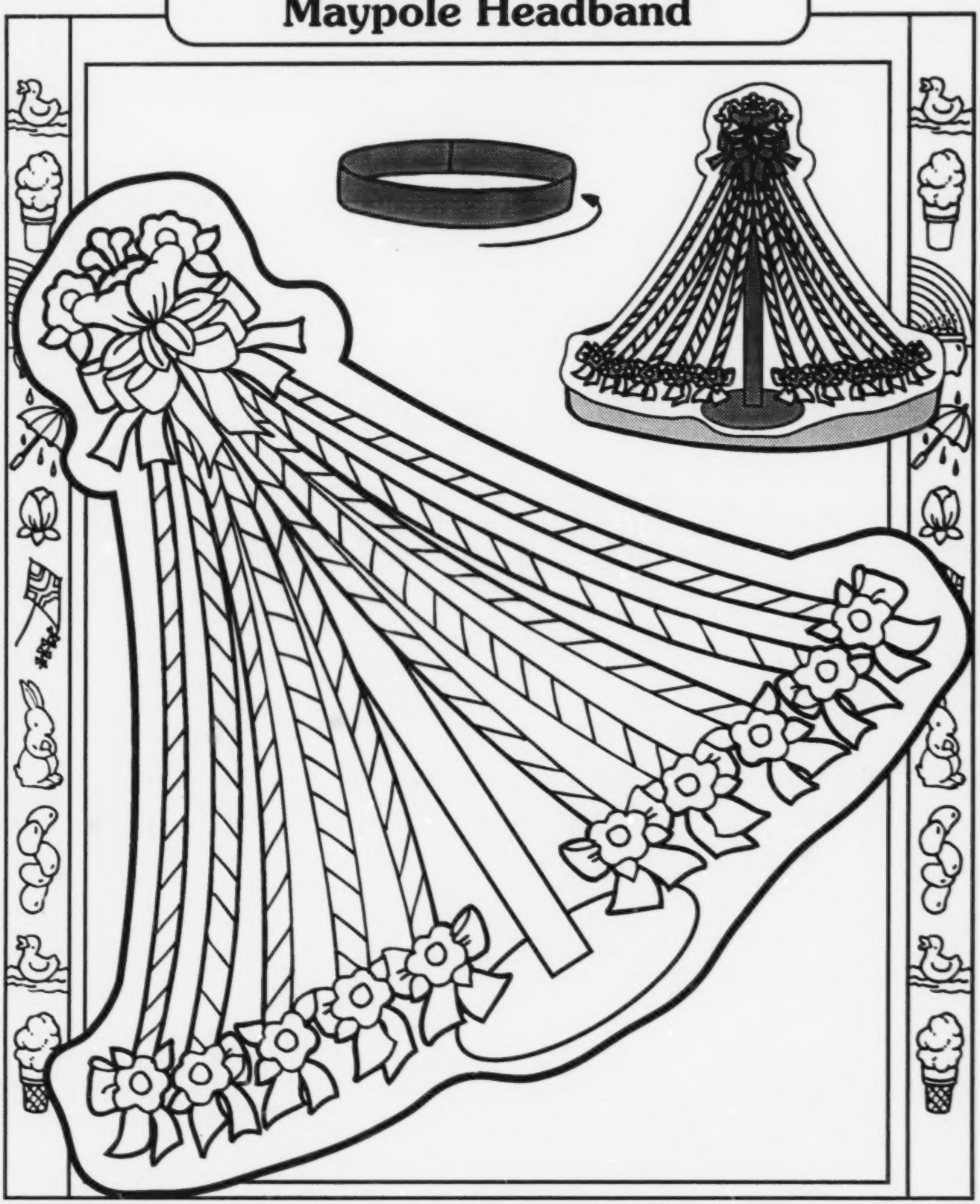
ORNAMENTS & DECORATIONS

Maypole Headband



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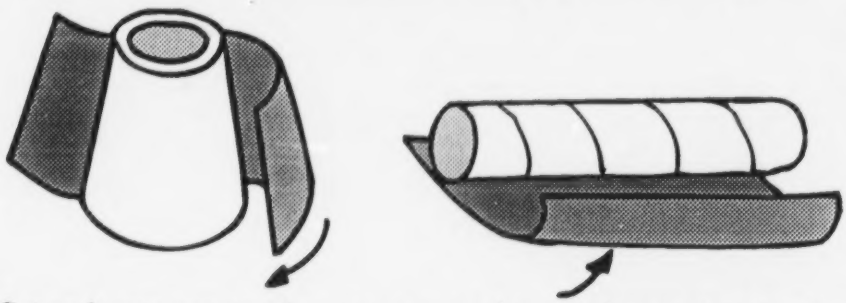
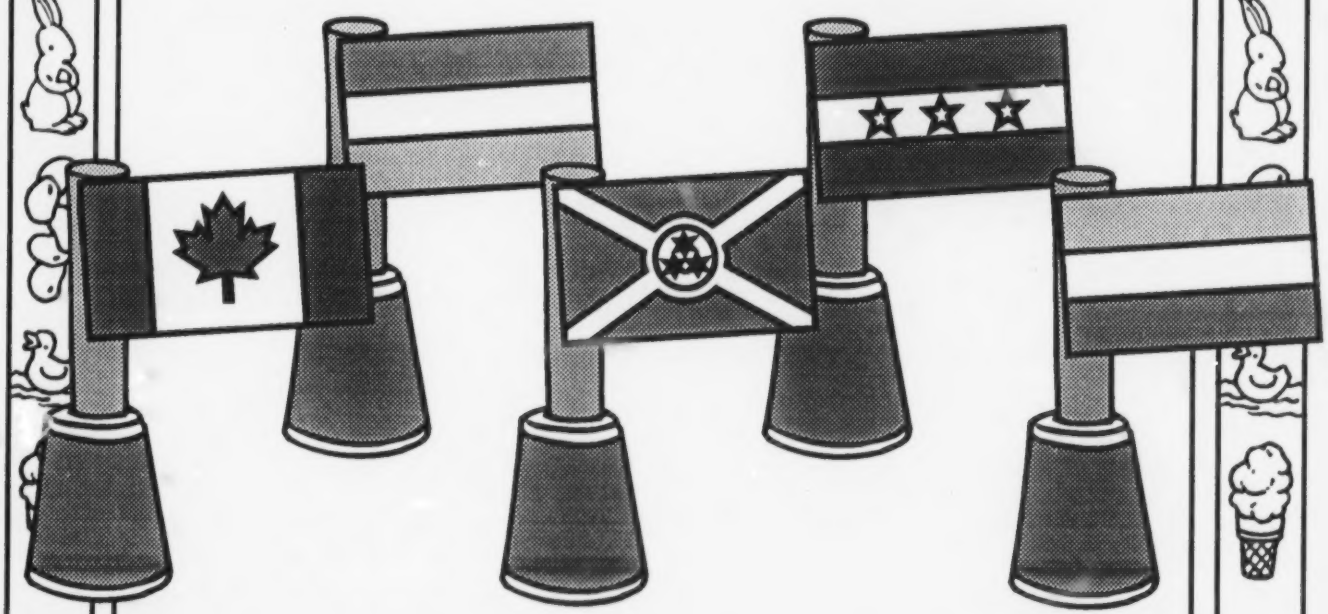
Independence and Flag Days Around the World

Pages 158-184 feature flags from nations all over the world that celebrate national holidays and independence days during the spring and summer months. Reproduce the flags for students to color, cut out, and assemble according to the instructions on this page and page 156.

Provide children with paper towel rolls, crayons or markers, construction paper, scissors, and glue. Also provide paper cups to make flagpole stands. Have children wrap paper towel rolls and cups with construction paper. Glue the flags to the poles. Then cut a hole in the bottom of the cup large enough to fit the flagpole. Display the flags around your classroom or in your school media center during the spring and summer months.



Cut and wrap construction paper around cup and paper towel roll.



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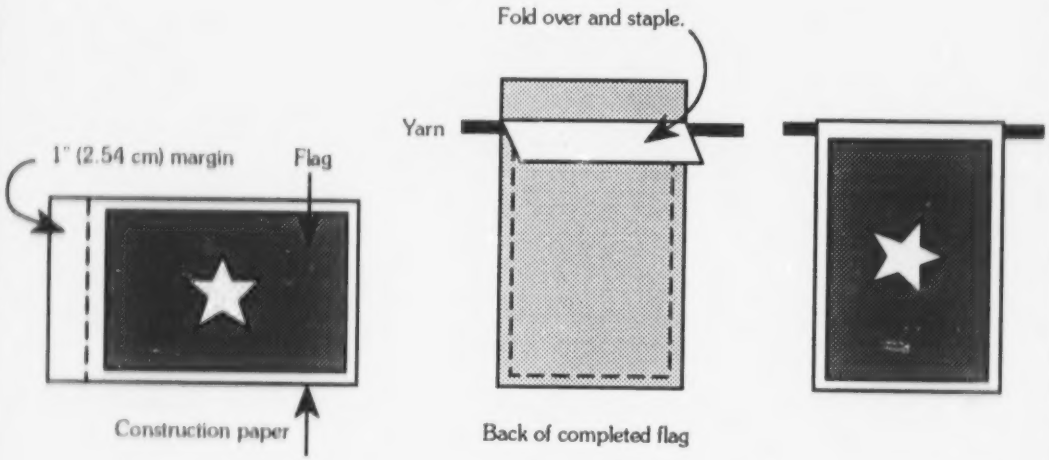
ORNAMENTS & DECORATIONS

International Flag Festival

Here is another way to display the flags for an "International Flag Festival" in your classroom.

Reproduce the flags for students to color and cut out. Provide a blank sheet of construction paper for students to draw and color flags for countries you would like to include that are not featured.

Provide each student with crayons, markers, scissors, glue, and a sheet of colored construction paper on which to mount his or her flag. Add one extra inch (2.54 cm) to the length of the paper as a fold-over margin. Have students glue finished flags on the sheets as shown below.



Drape colorful lengths of yarn or ribbon streamers around your classroom. Show students how to attach their flags by folding the 1" (2.54 cm) margin over the string and securing with staples.

Enlarge the flags of countries listed on page 157 for students to color and display in the center of the bulletin board. When the season is over, let children take their projects home to share with their families.

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ORNAMENTS & DECORATIONS

International Flag Festival

The countries listed below celebrate national holidays and independence days during the spring and summer months of March, April, May, June, July, August, and September.

Africa
Republic of Burundi
Republic of Cameroon
People's Republic of the Congo
Gabonese Republic
Republic of Ivory Coast
Republic of Liberia
Republic of Malawi
People's Republic of Mozambique
Republic of Niger
Republic of Rwanda
Republic of Senegal
Republic of Sierra Leone
Somali Democratic Republic
Republic of South Africa
Kingdom of Swaziland
United Republic of Tanzania
Republic of Togo
Republic of Tunisia

Asia
Republic of Cyprus
Republic of Iraq
State of Israel
Heshemite Kingdom of Jordan
Syrian Arab Republic

Europe
Kingdom of Belgium
People's Republic of Bulgaria
Czechoslovakia Socialist Republic
Kingdom of Denmark
French Republic
Hellenic Republic (Greece)
Hungarian People's Republic
Republic of Iceland
Kingdom of Norway
Polish People's Republic

North America
Canada
Commonwealth of the Bahamas
Jamaica
United Mexican States
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
United States

Central America
Republic of Costa Rica
Republic of Guatemala
Republic of Honduras
Republic of Nicaragua

South America
Argentine Republic
Republic of Bolivia
Republic of Brazil
Republic of Chile
Republic of Colombia
Republic of Ecuador
Republic of Paraguay
Republic of Peru
Oriental Republic of Uruguay
Republic of Venezuela

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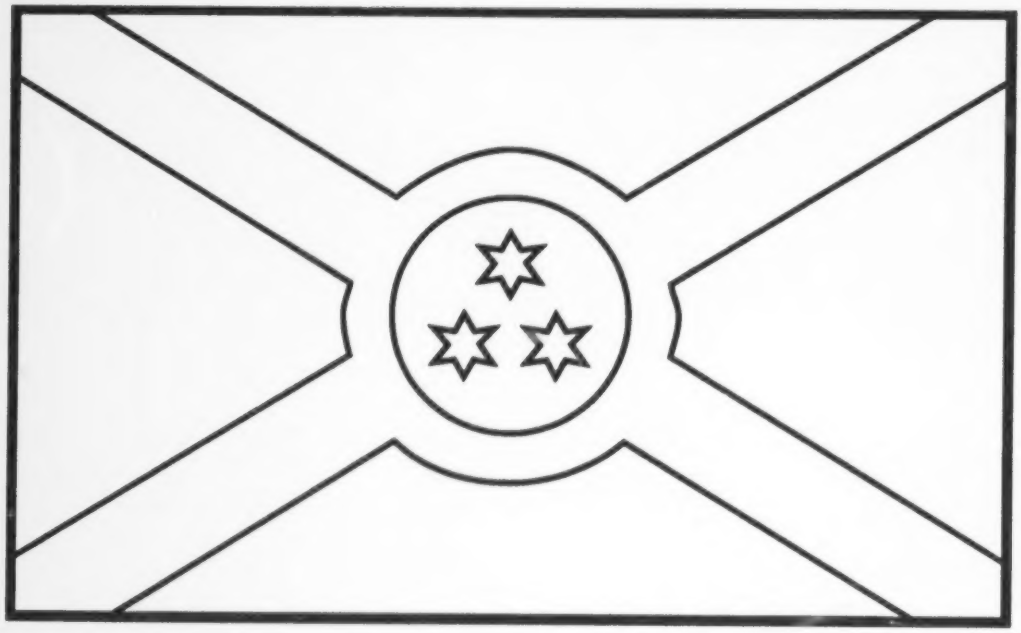
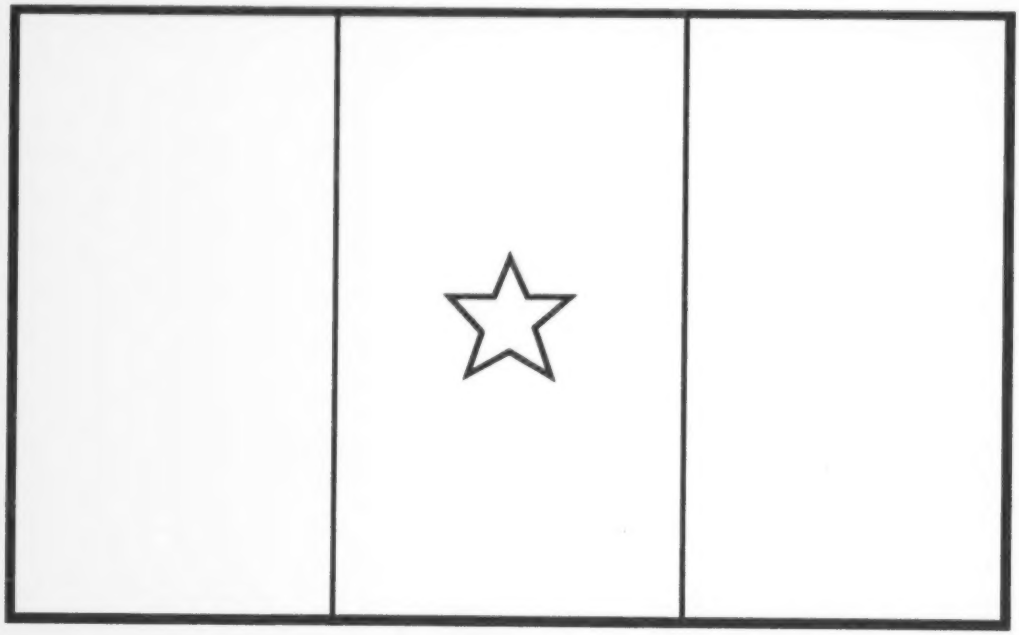
Independence and Flag Days Around the World

Africa

Burundi



Cameroon



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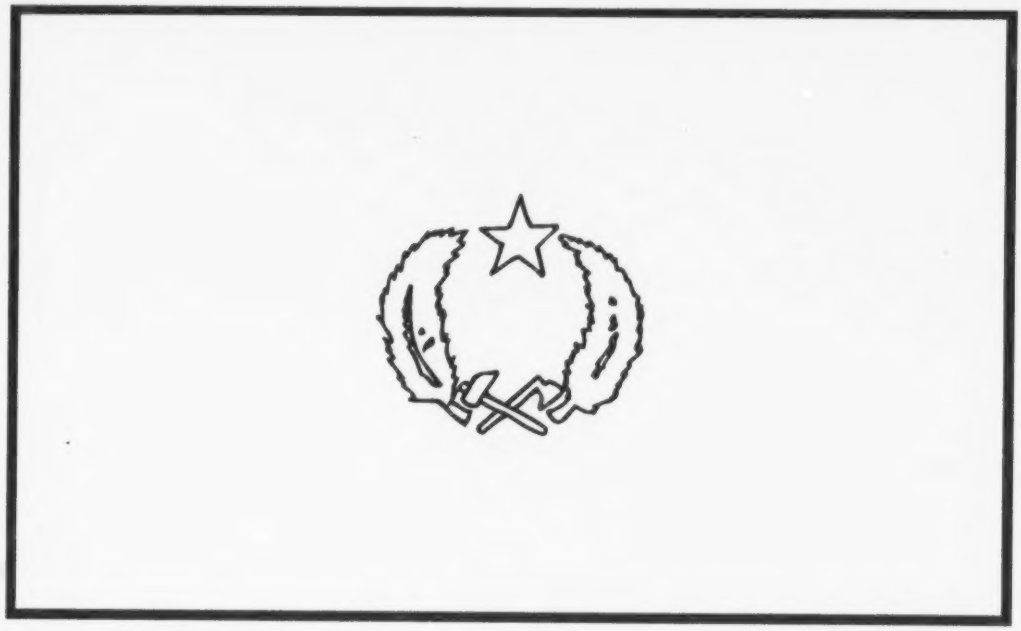
Independence and Flag Days Around the World

Africa

Congo



Gabon

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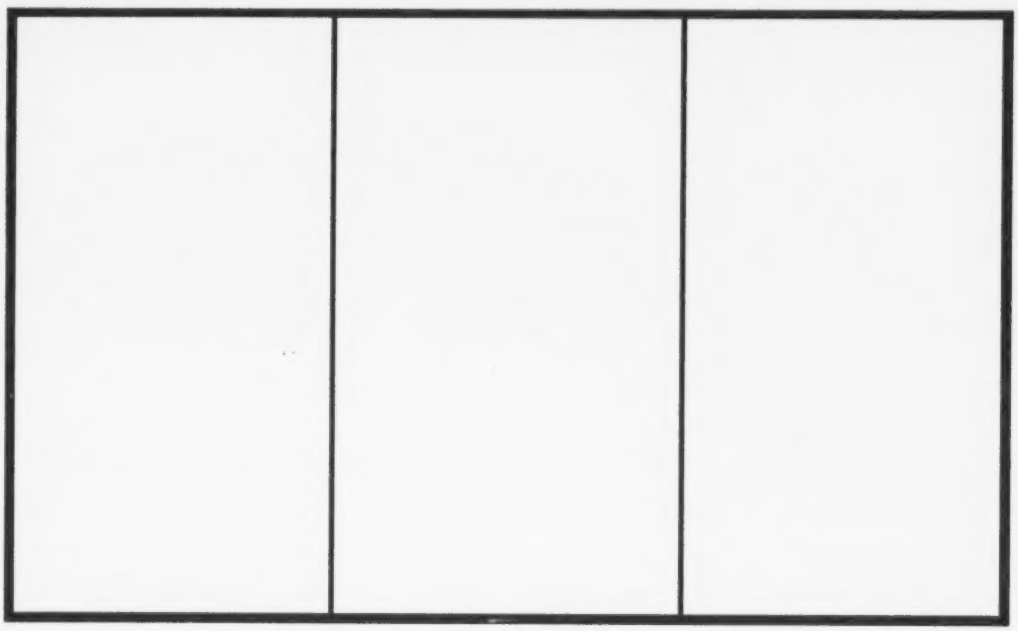
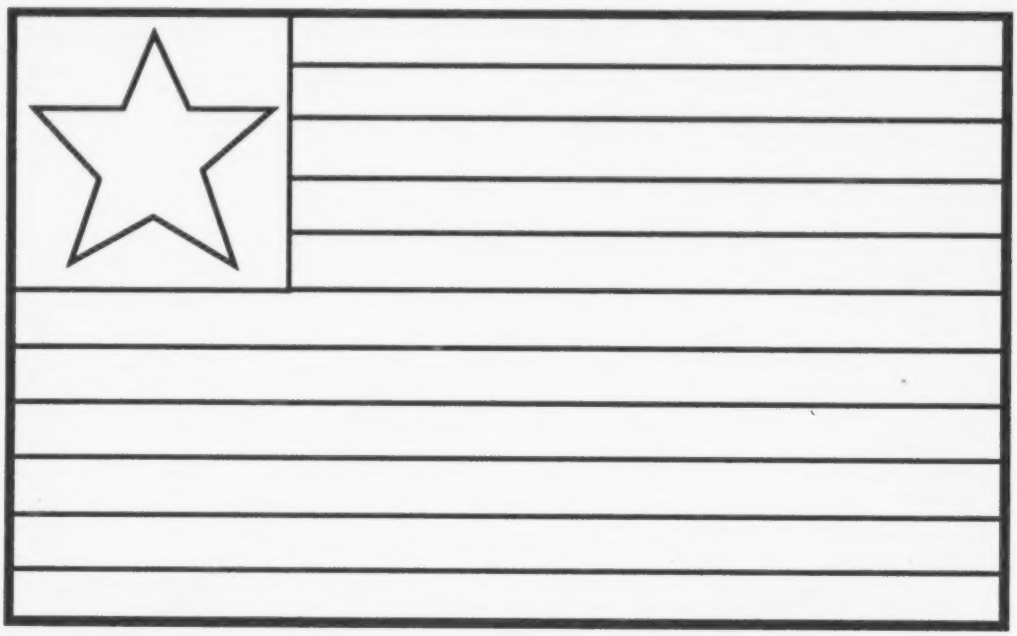
Independence and Flag Days Around the World

Africa
Ivory Coast



Liberia



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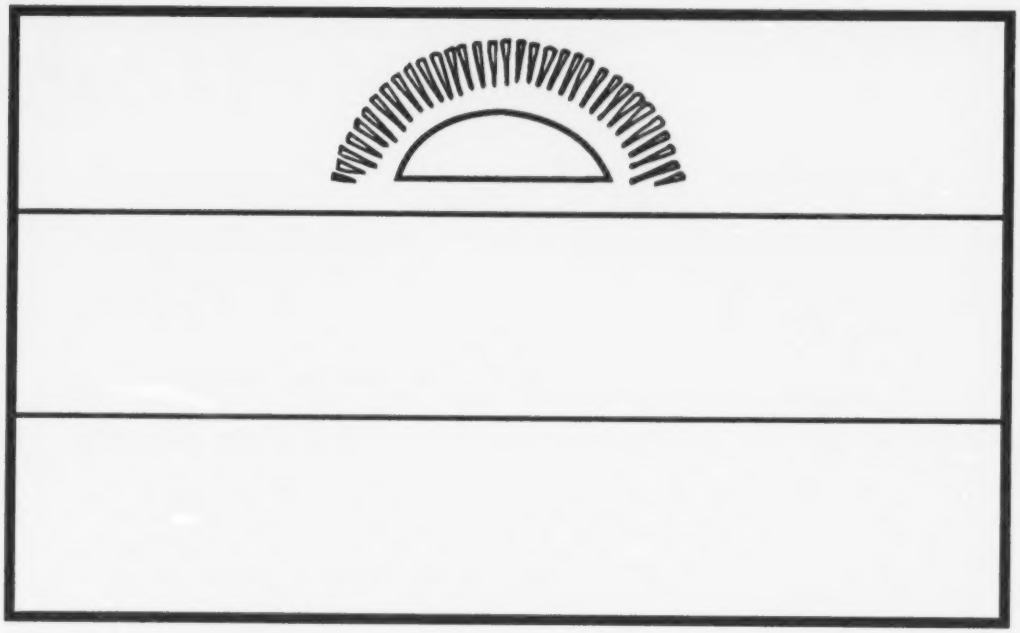
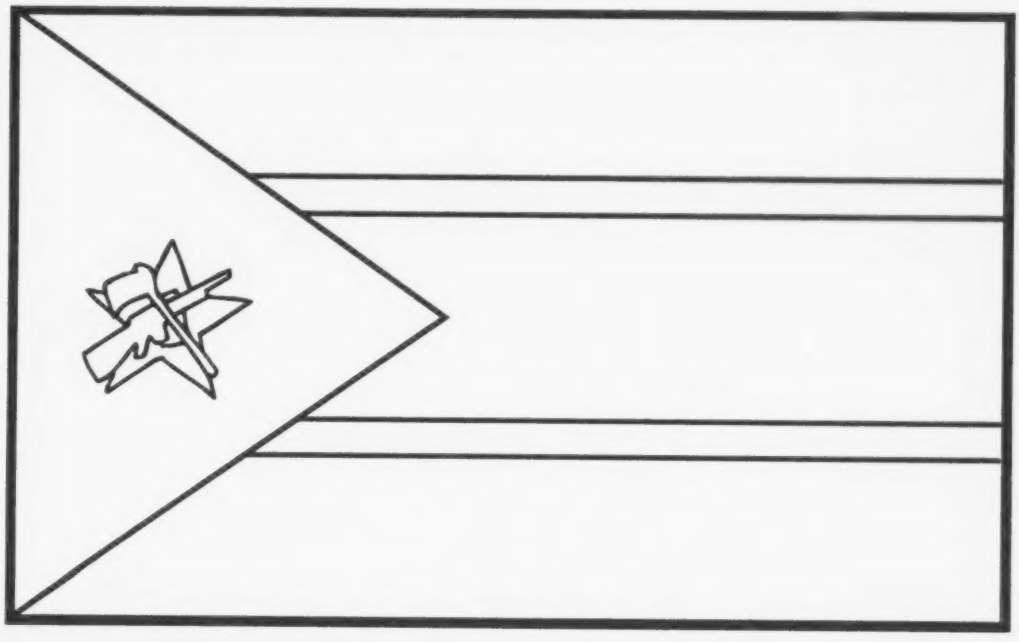
Independence and Flag Days Around the World

Africa

Malawi



Mozambique



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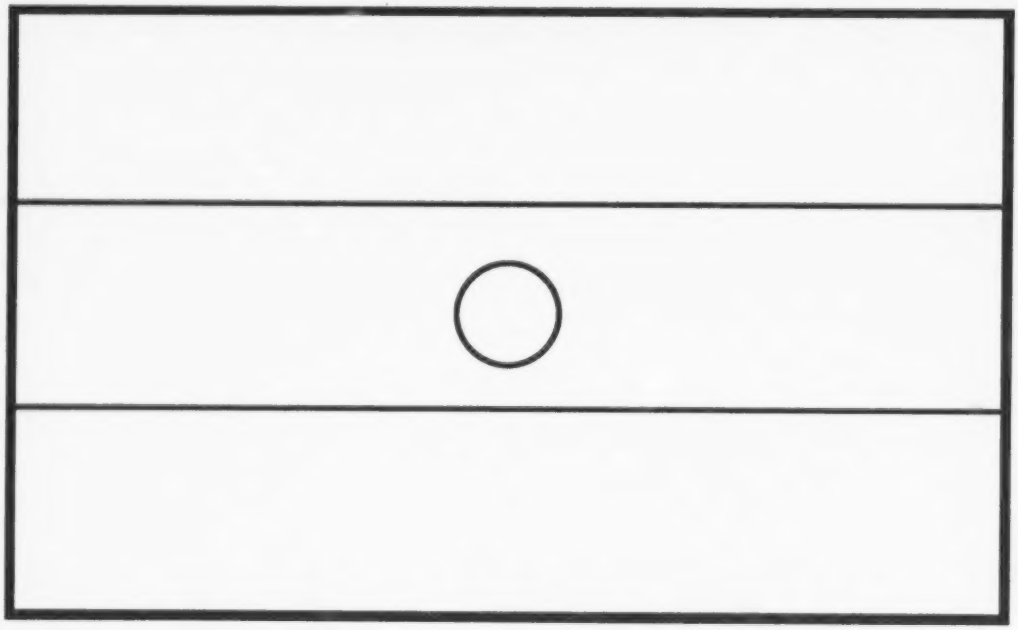
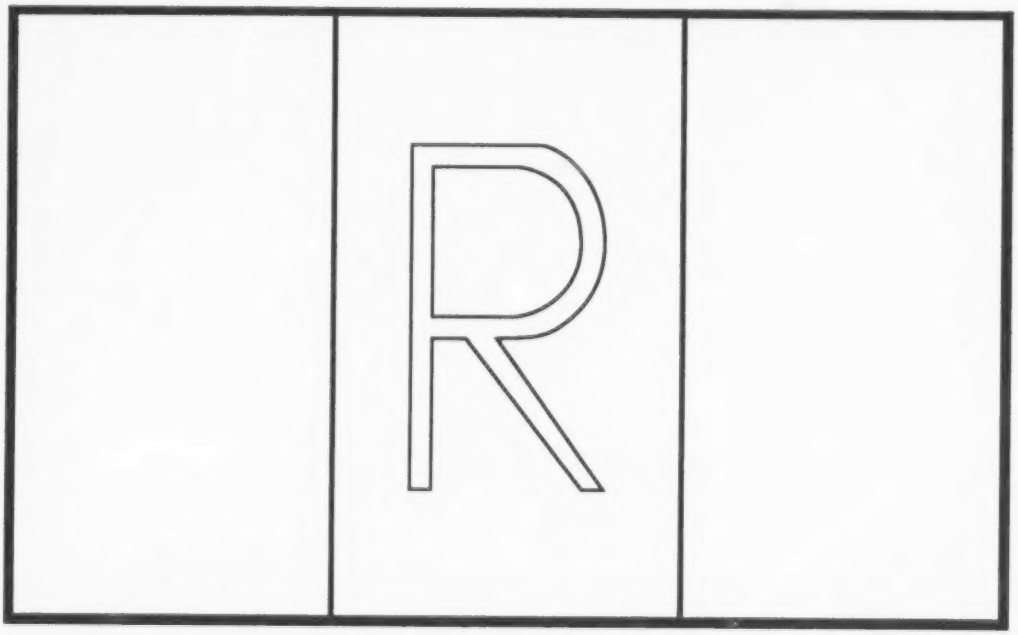
Independence and Flag Days Around the World

Africa

Niger



Rwanda



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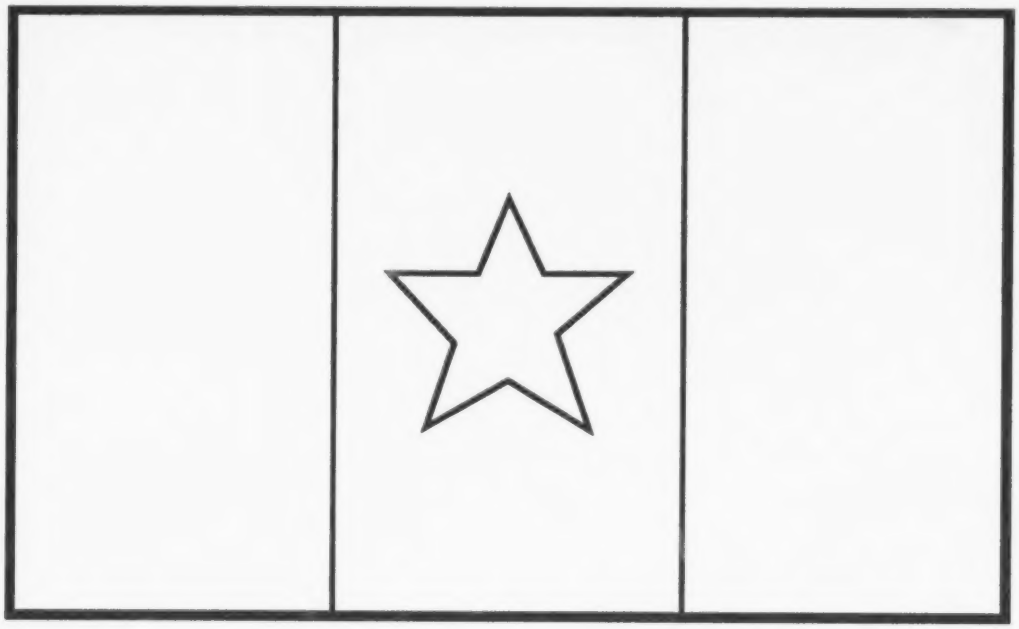
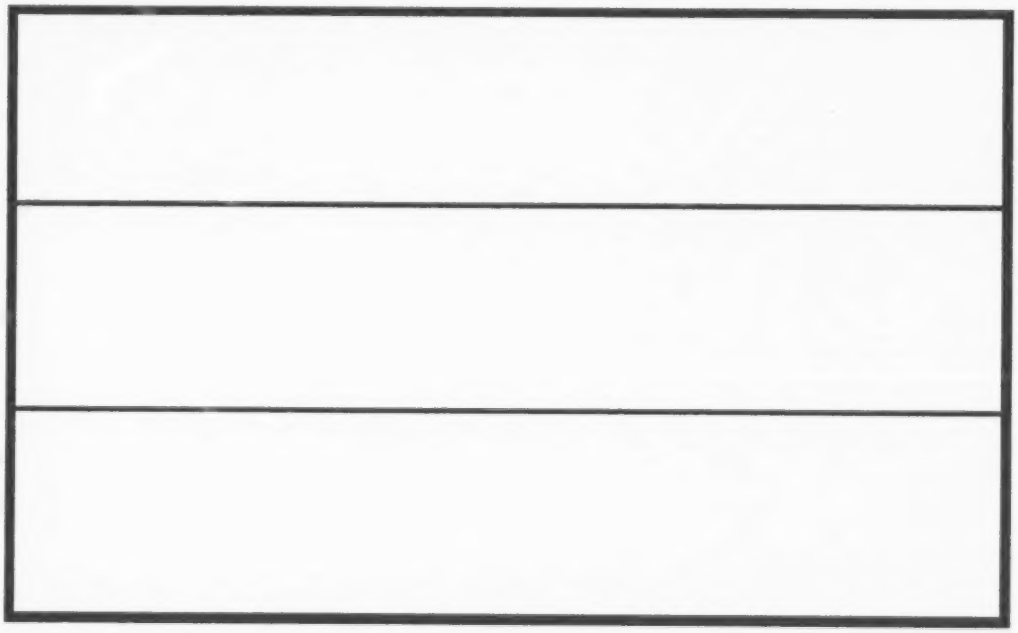
Independence and Flag Days Around the World

Africa

Senegal



Sierra Leone



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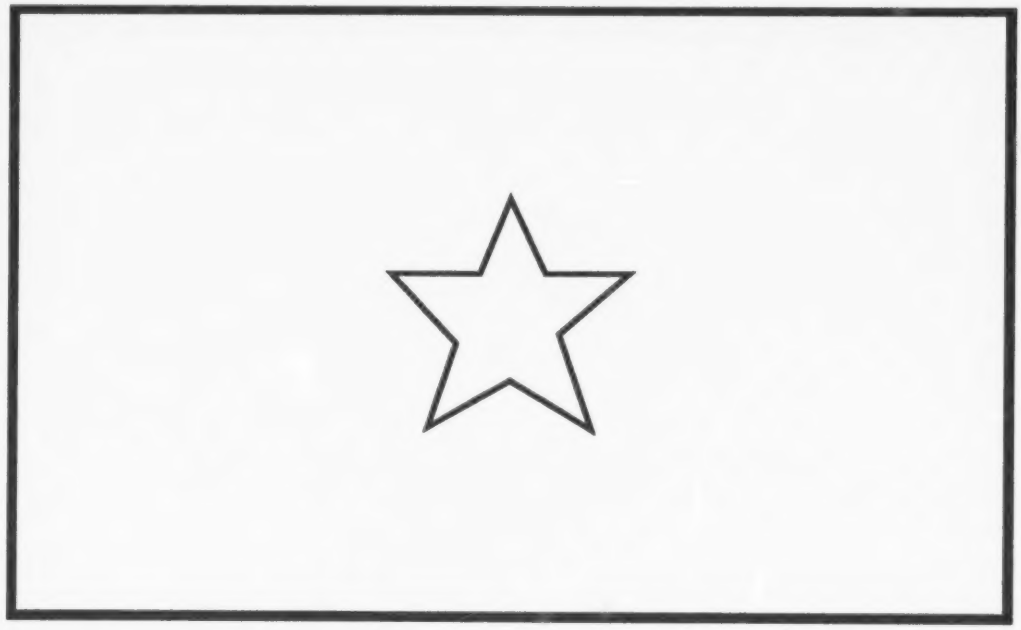
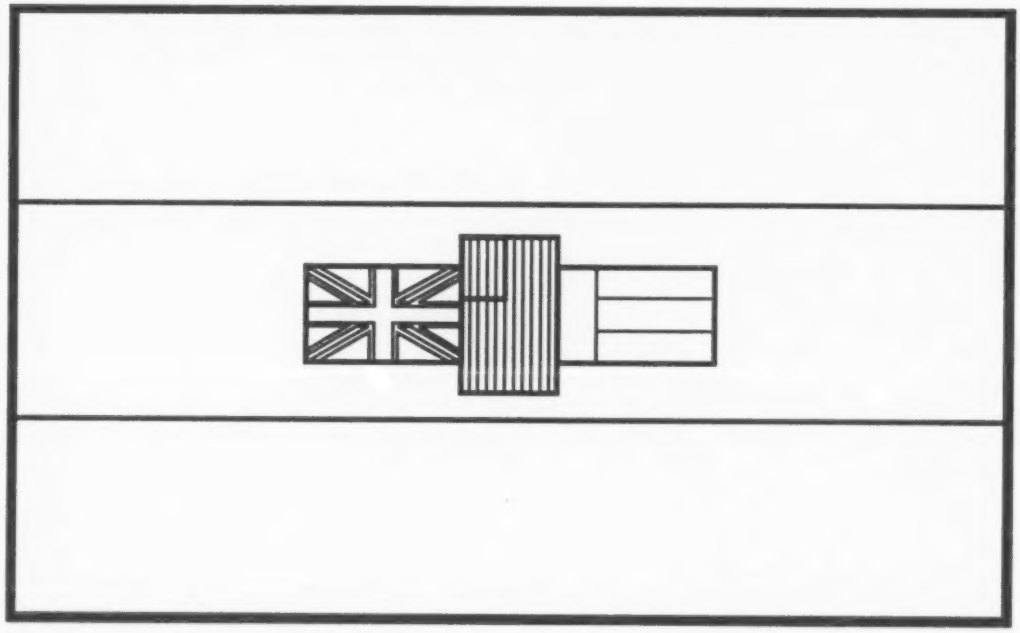
Africa

Somalia



South Africa



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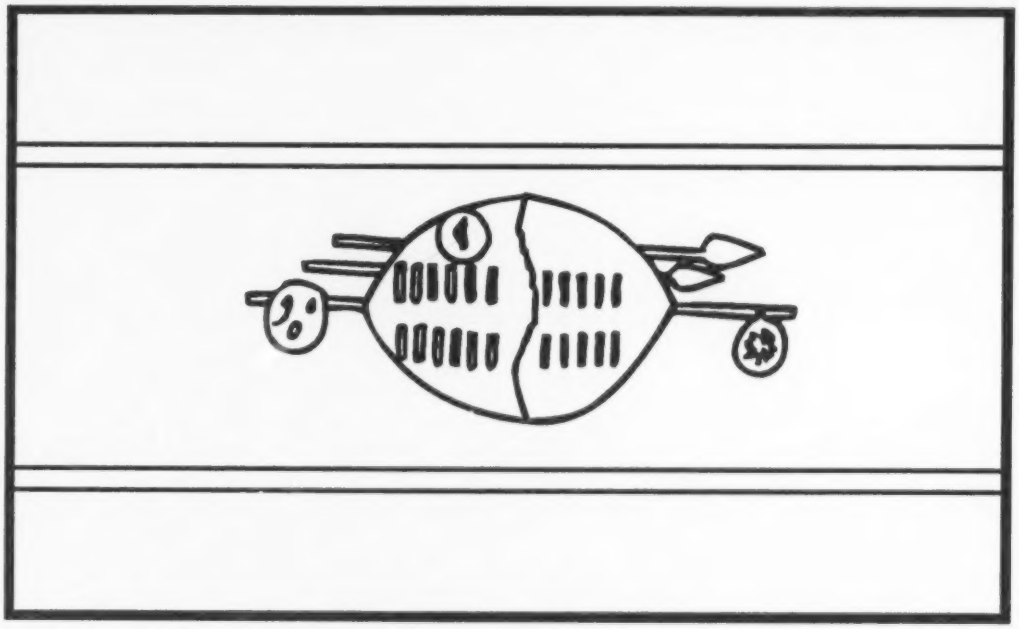
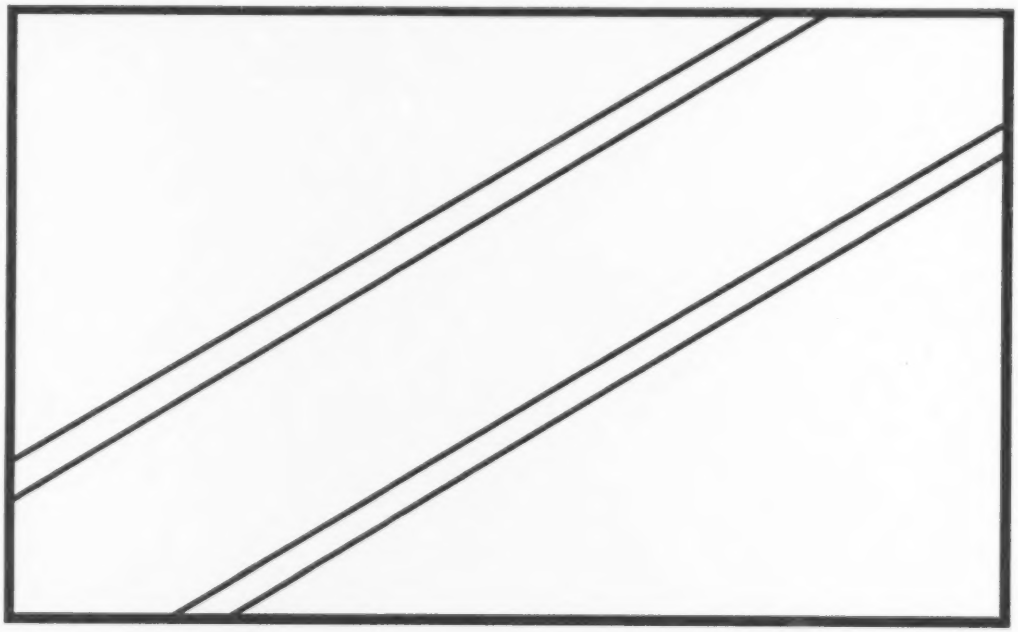
Africa

Swaziland



Tanzania



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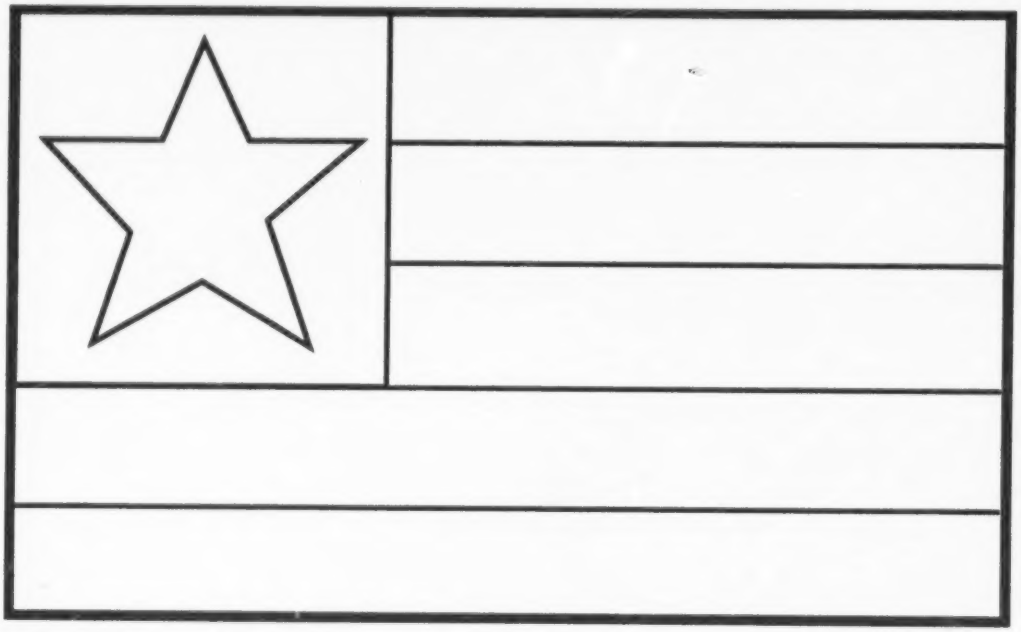
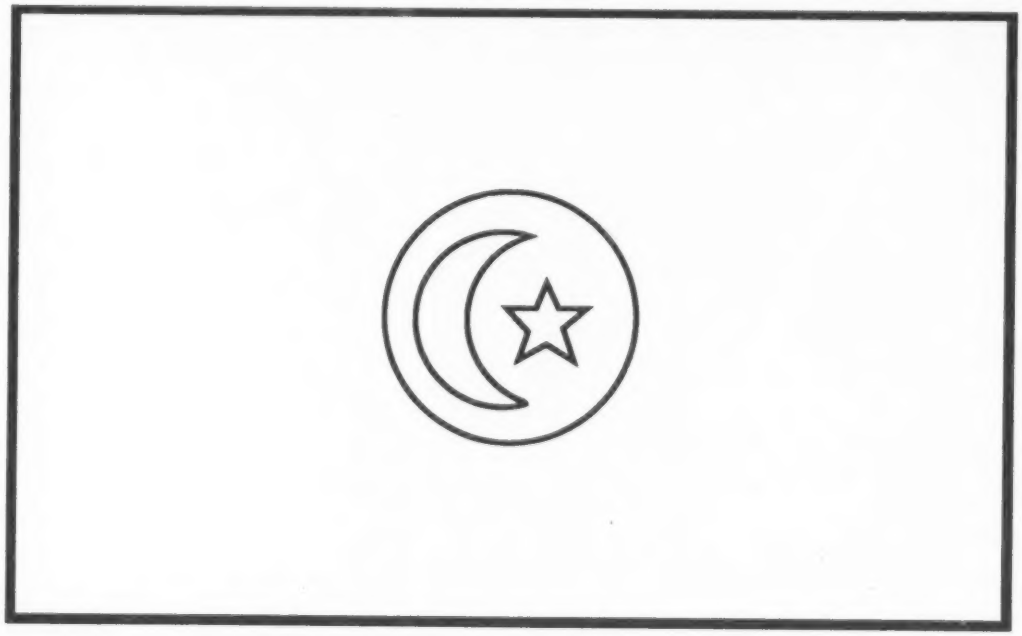
Africa

Togo



Tunisia



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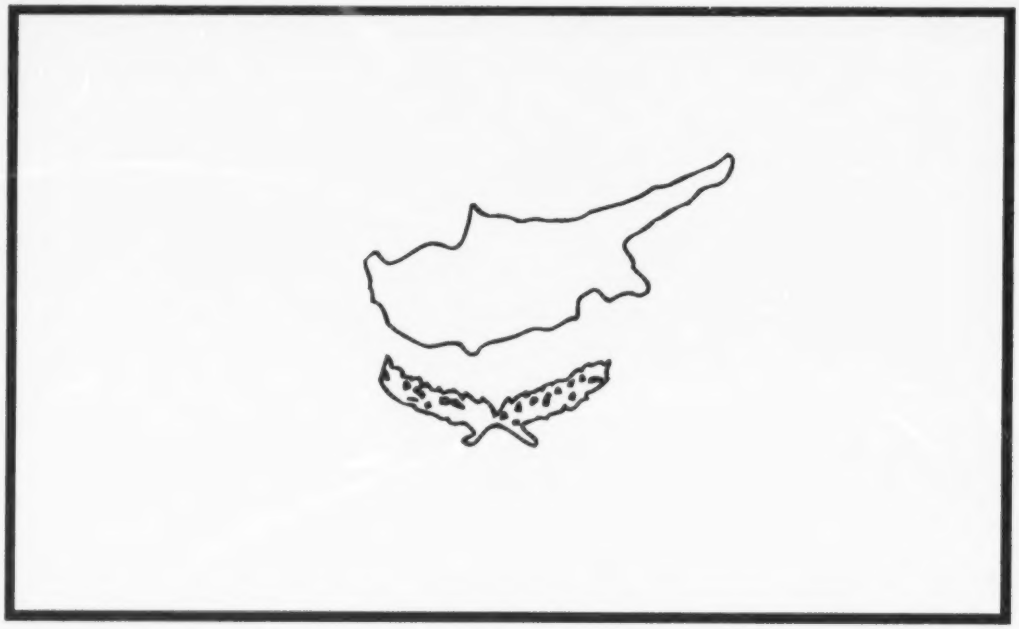
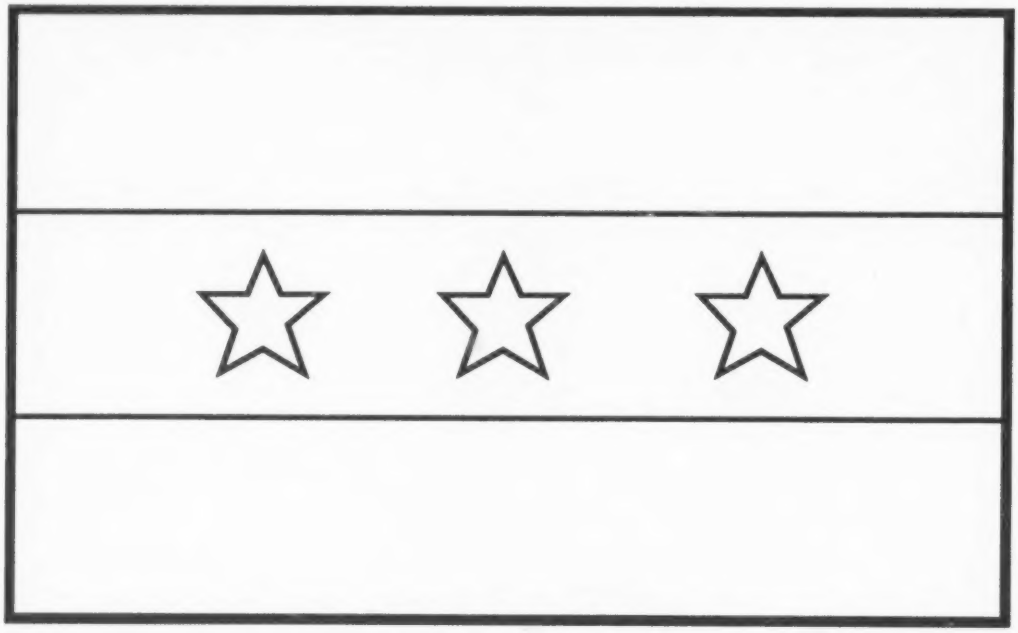
Asia

Cyprus



Iraq



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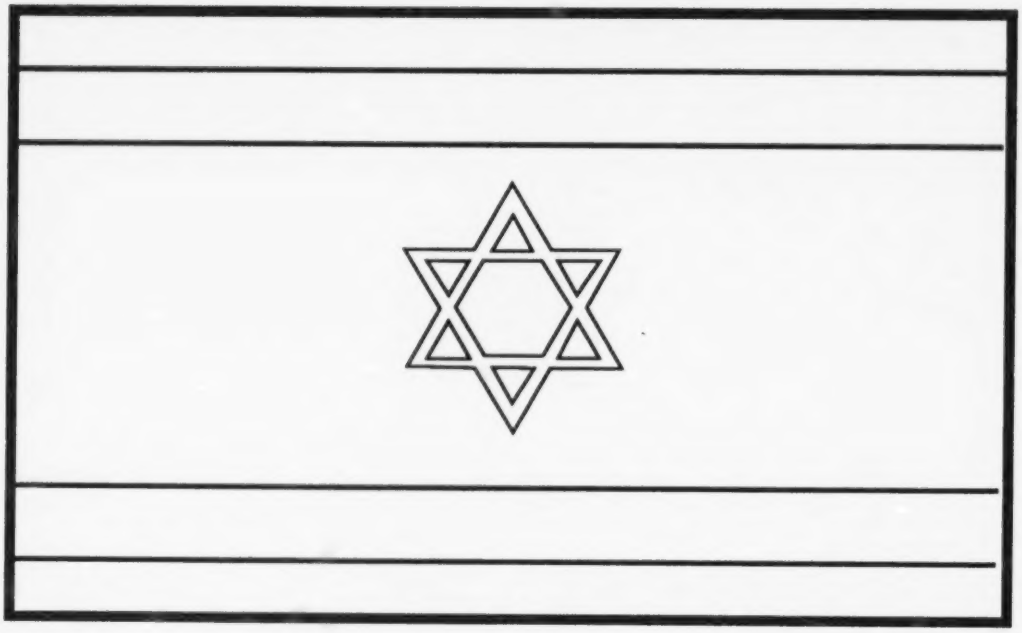
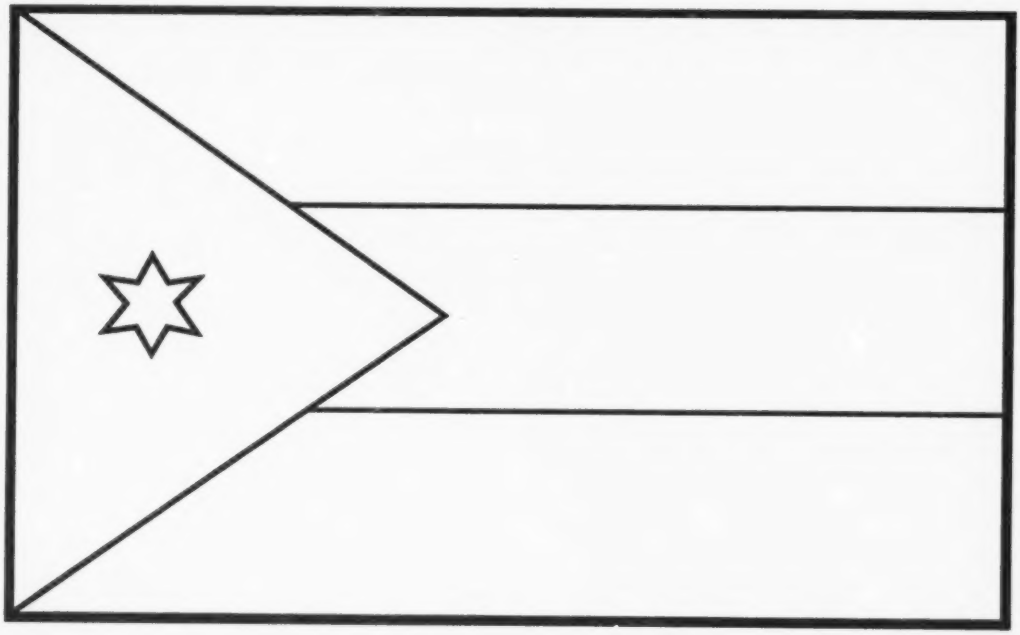
Asia

Israel



Jordan



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Asia
Syria

Blank

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Europe

Belgium

Bulgaria

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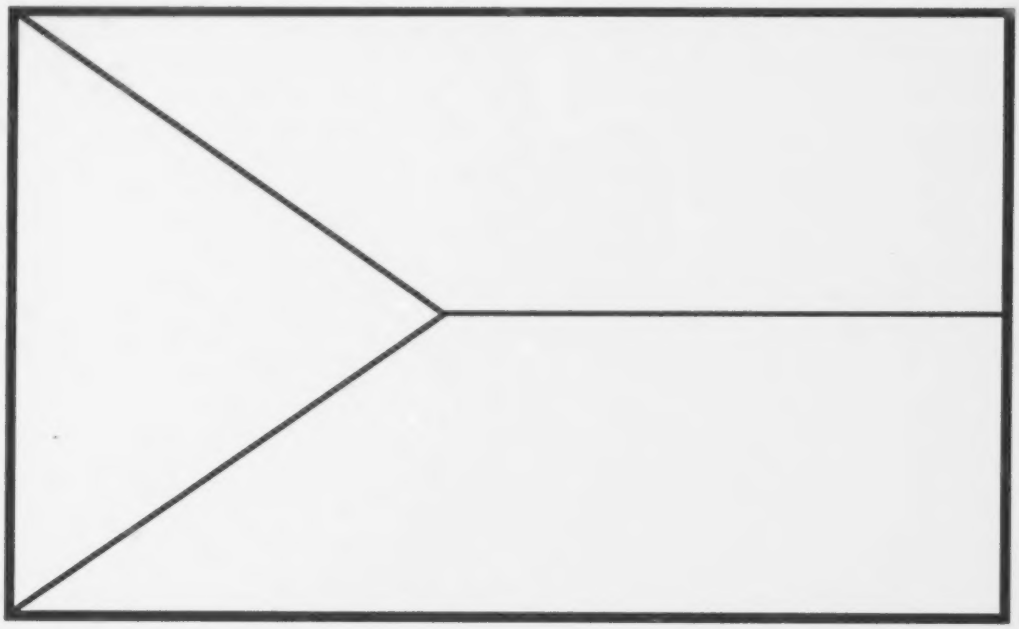
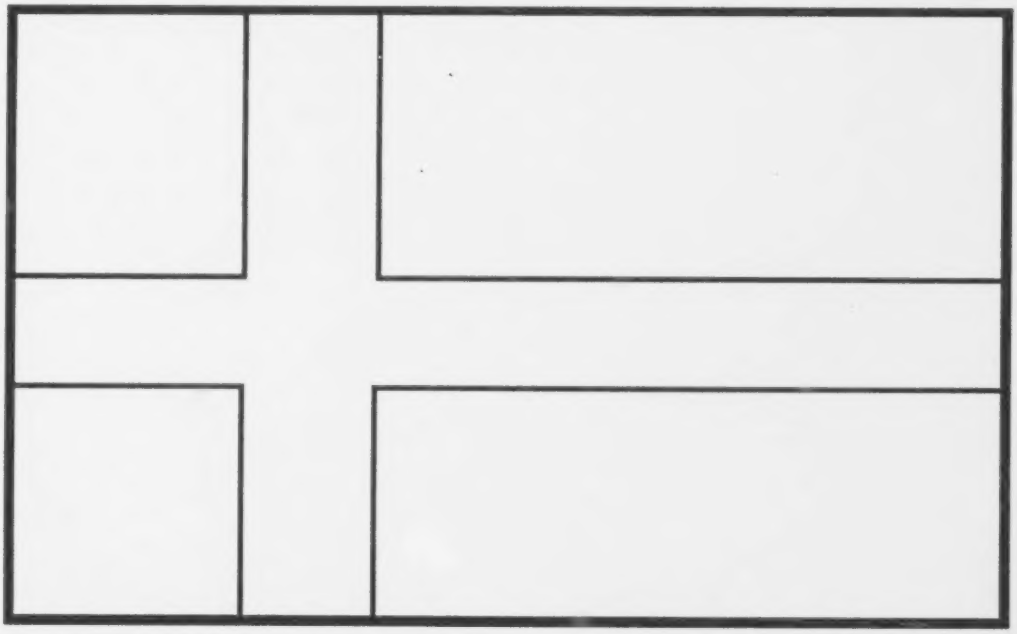
Europe

Czechoslovakia



Denmark



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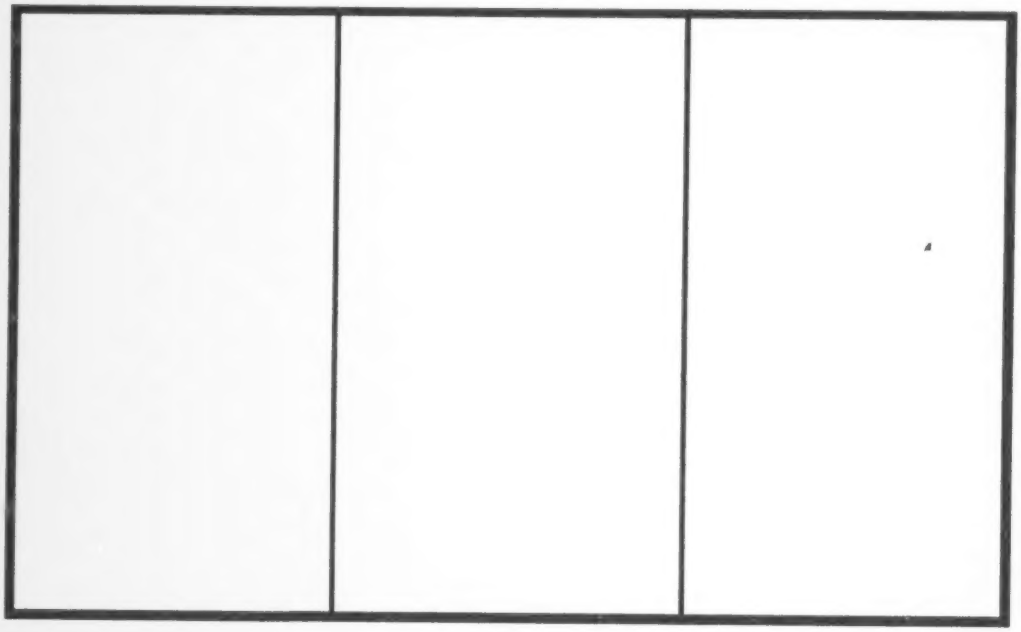
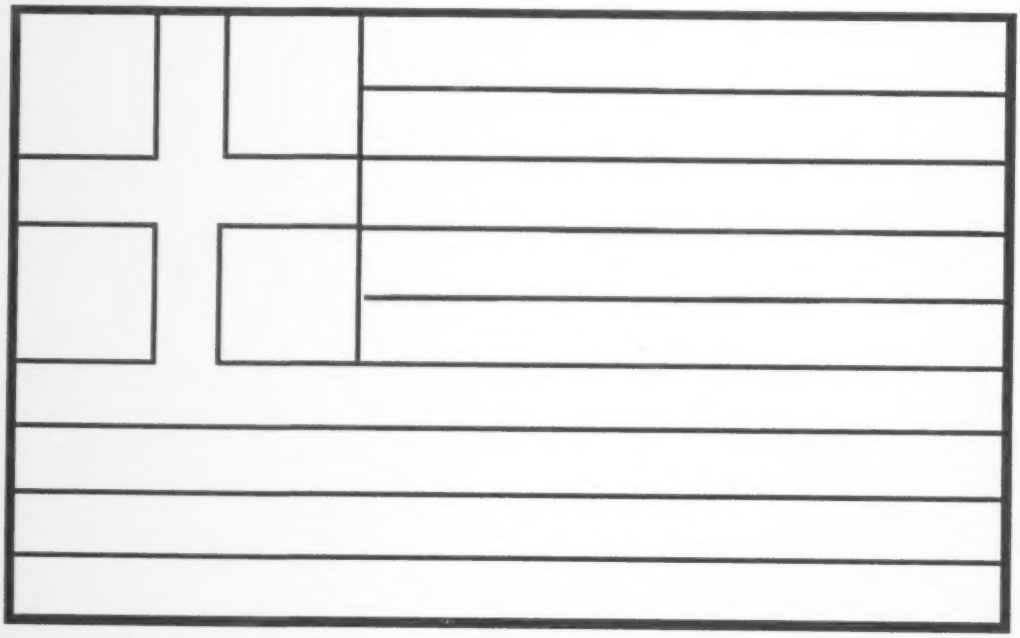
Independence and Flag Days Around the World

Europe

France



Greece



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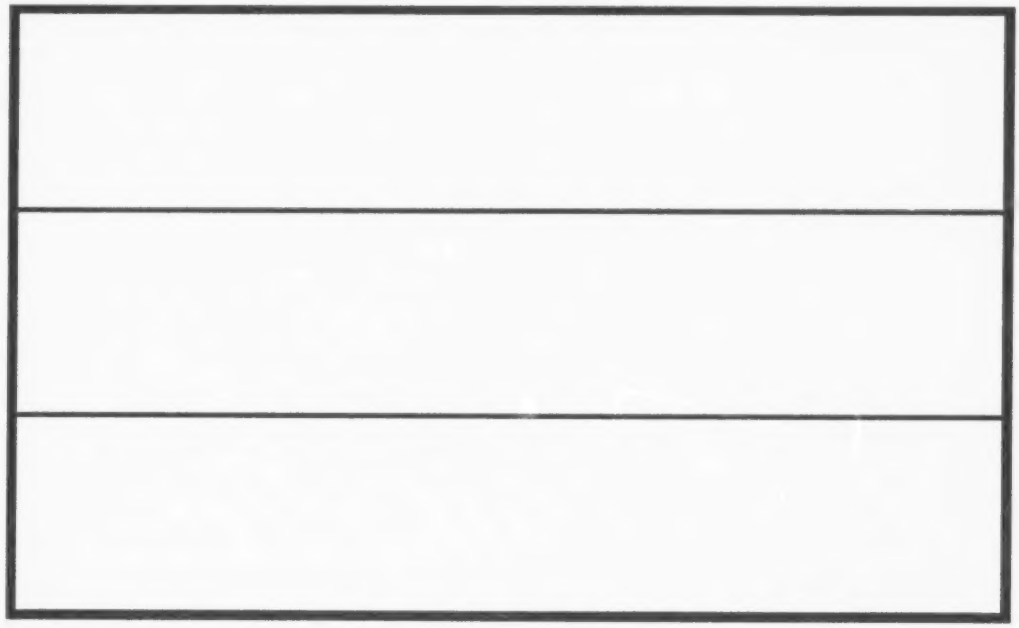
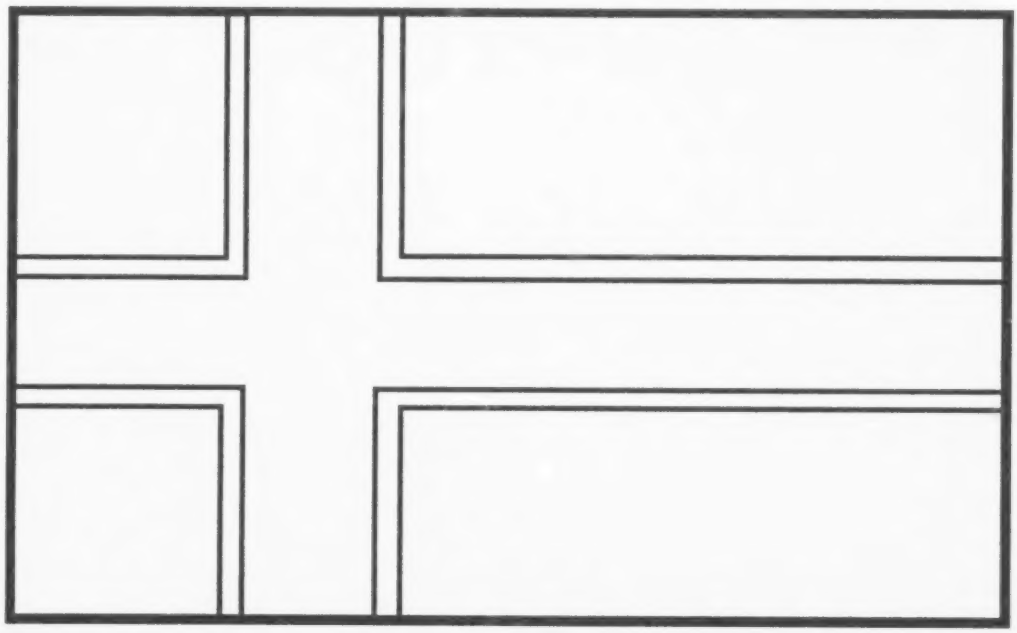
Europe

Hungary



Iceland



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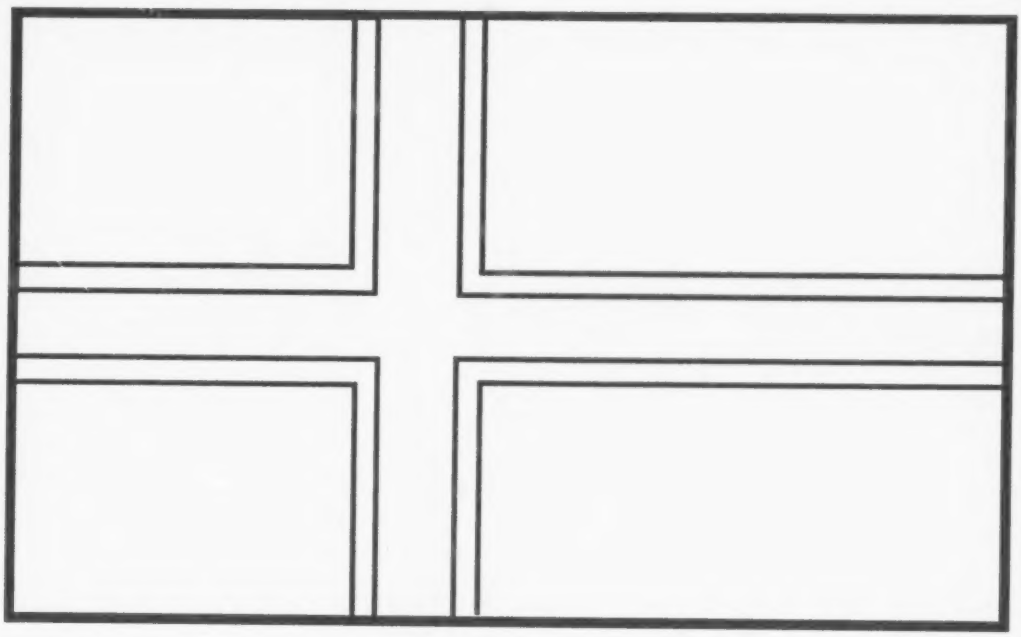
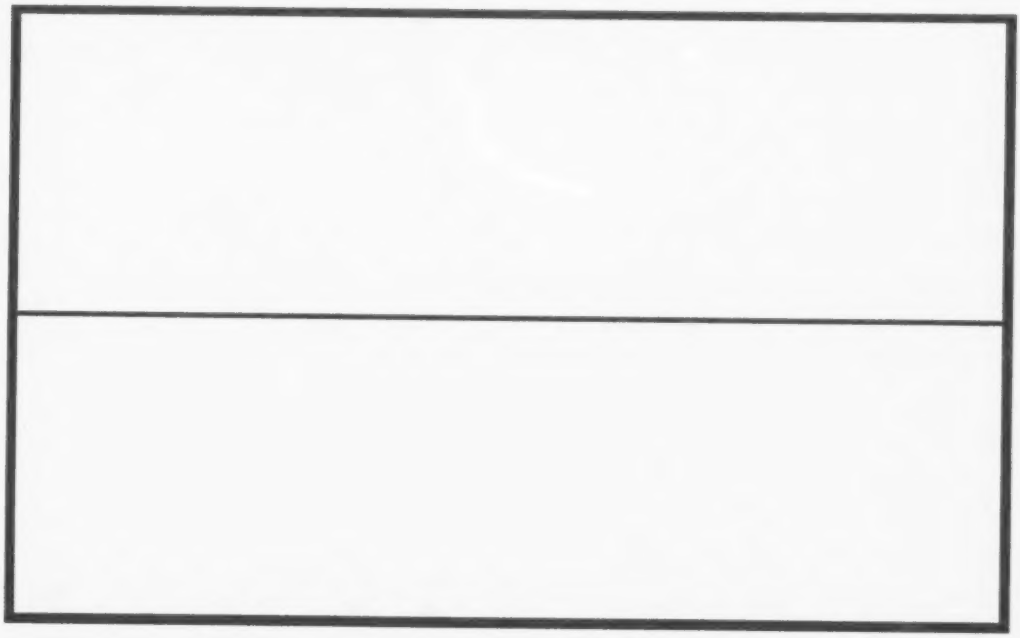
Europe

Norway



Poland



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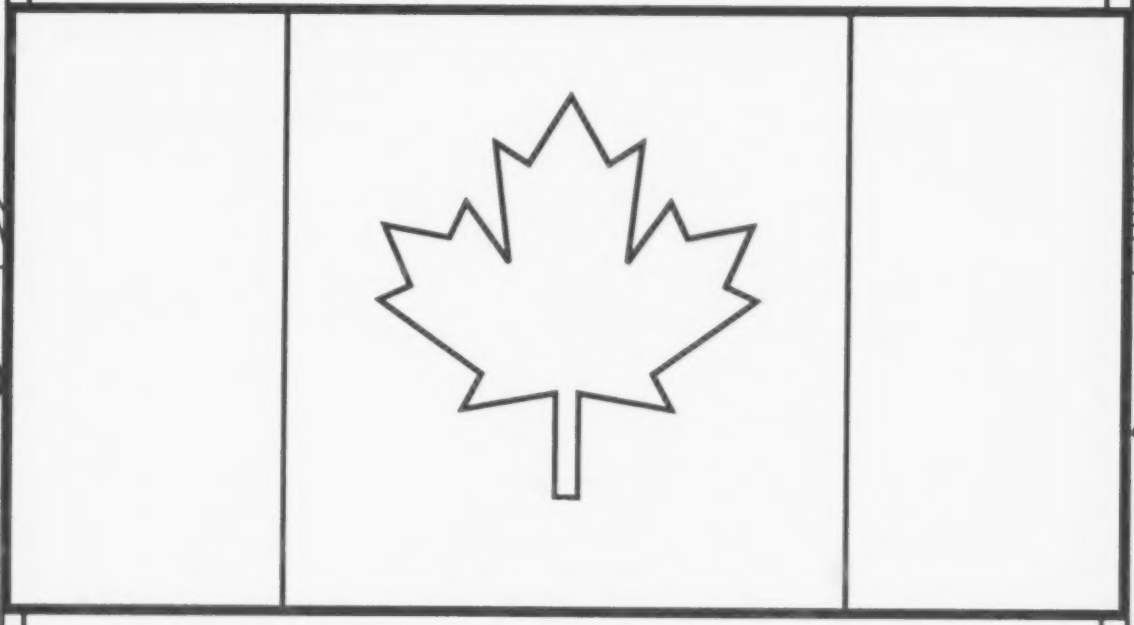
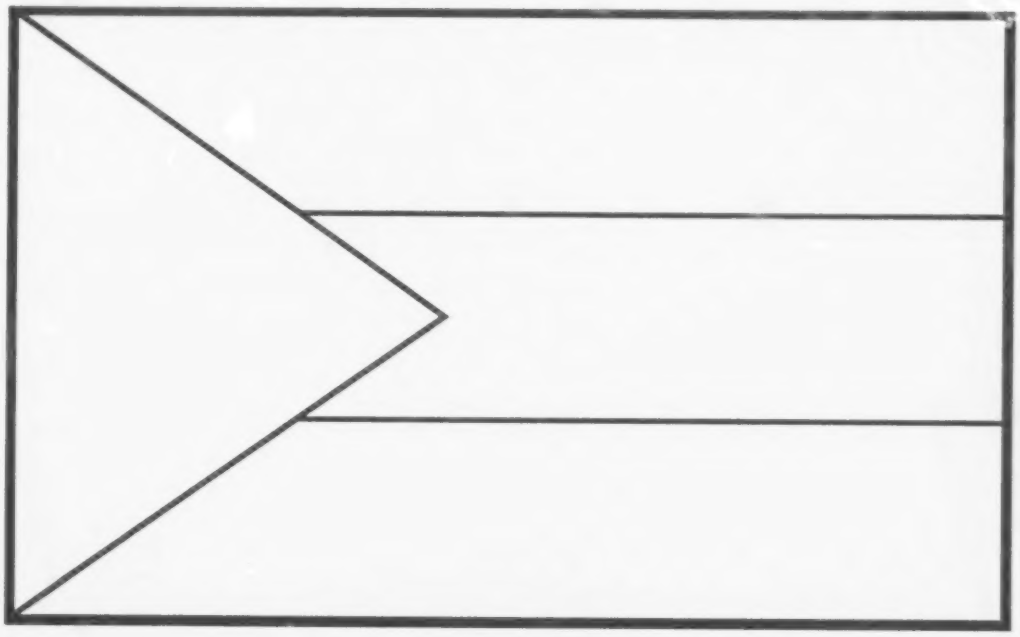
Independence and Flag Days Around the World

North America
Canada



Bahamas



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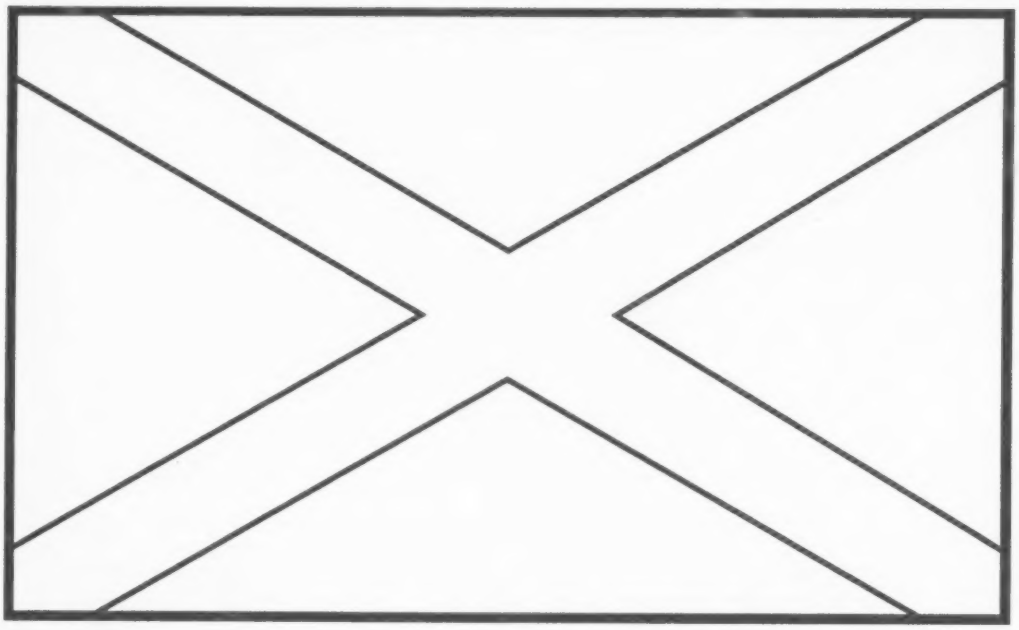
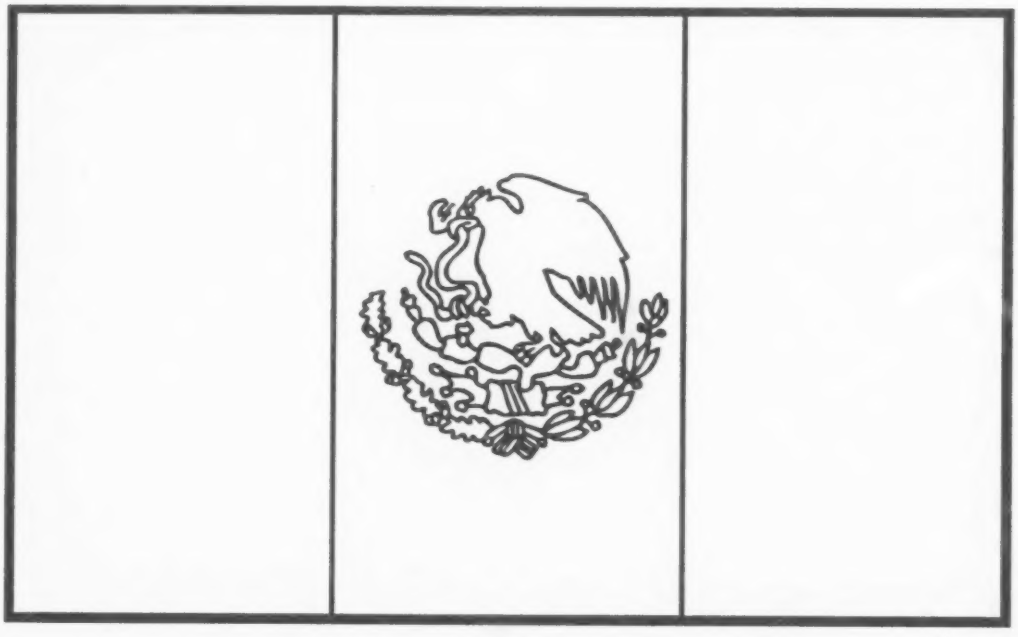
Independence and Flag Days Around the World

North America

Jamaica



Mexico



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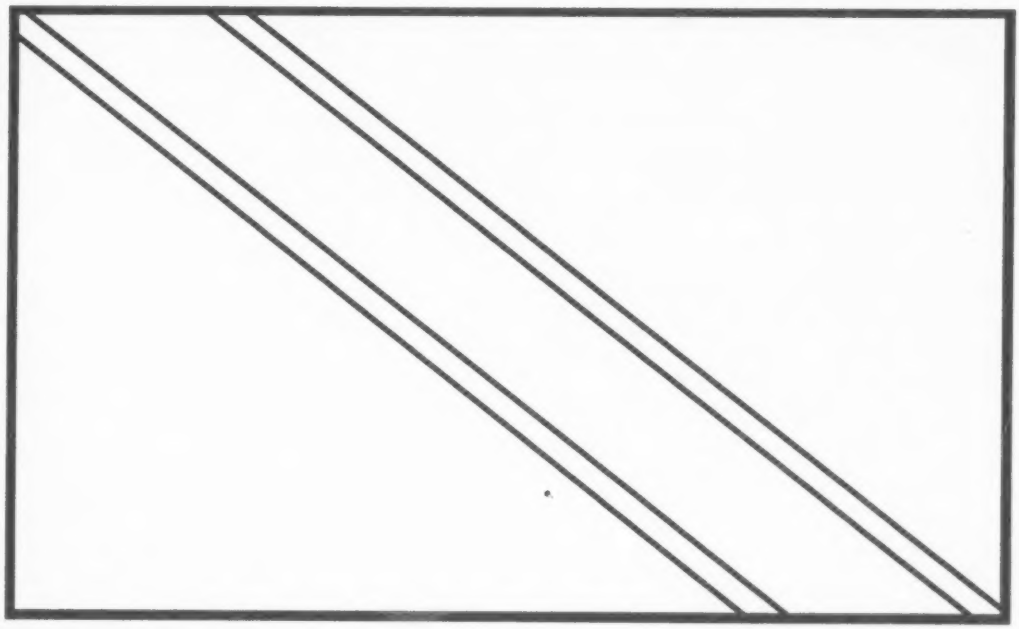
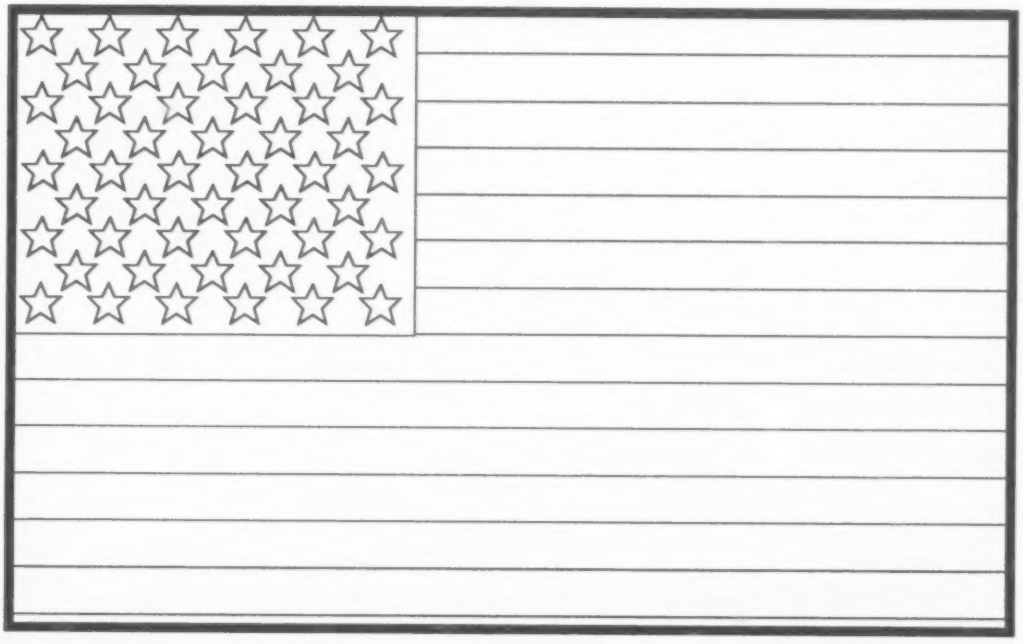
Independence and Flag Days Around the World

North America

Trinidad and Tobago



United States



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Independence and Flag Days Around the World

Central America

Costa Rica

Guatemala

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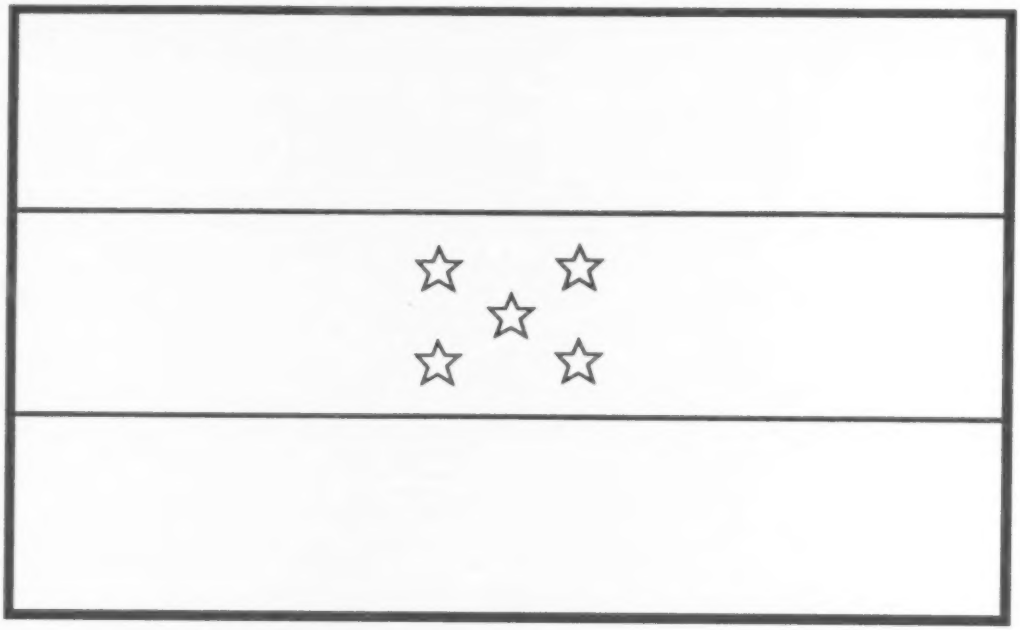
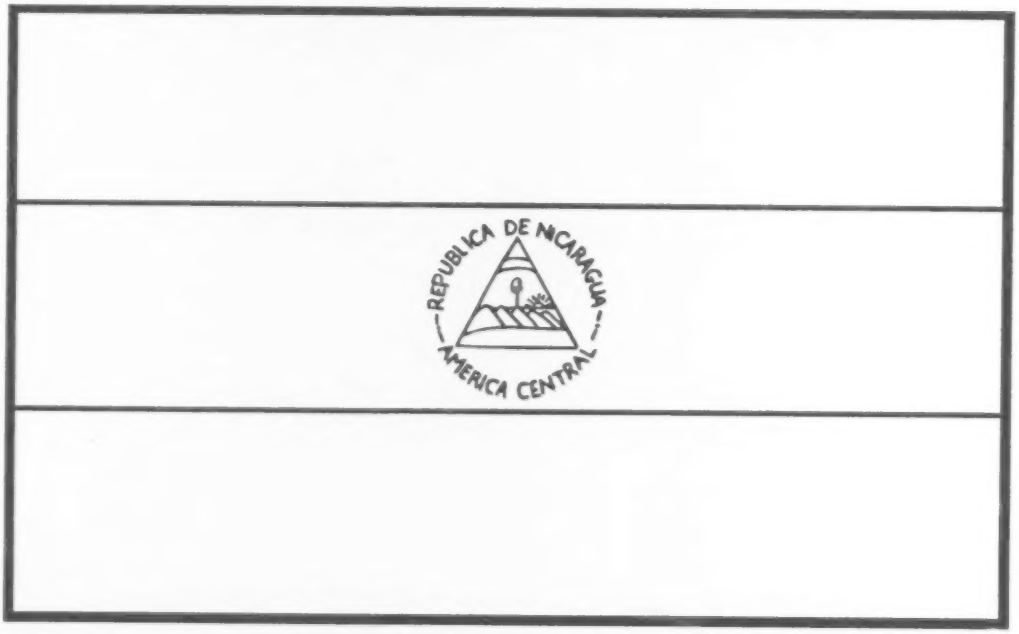
Independence and Flag Days Around the World

Central America

Honduras



Nicaragua



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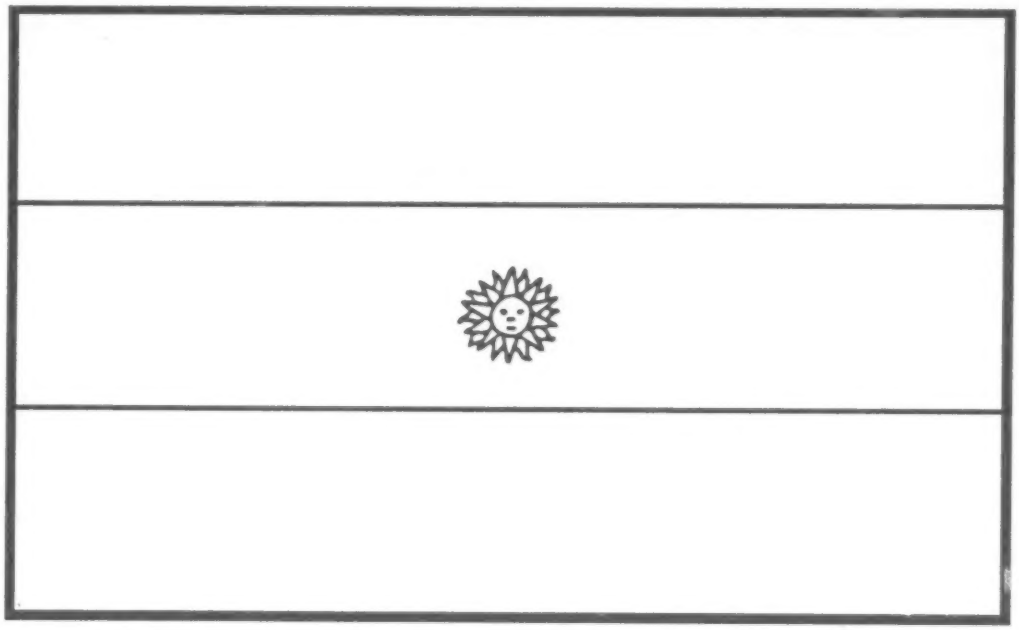
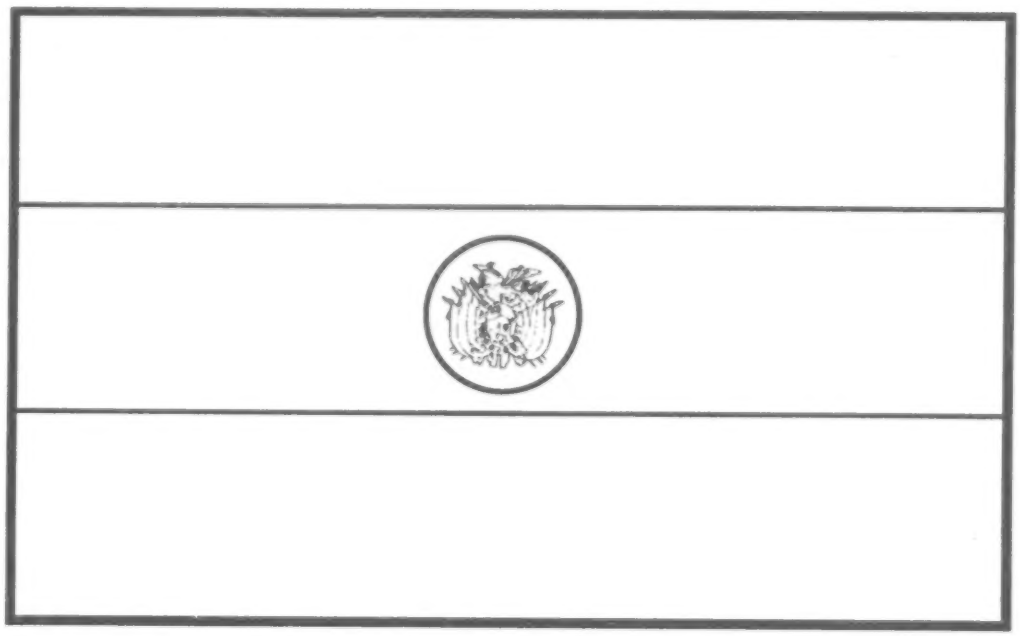
Independence and Flag Days Around the World

South America

Argentina



Bolivia



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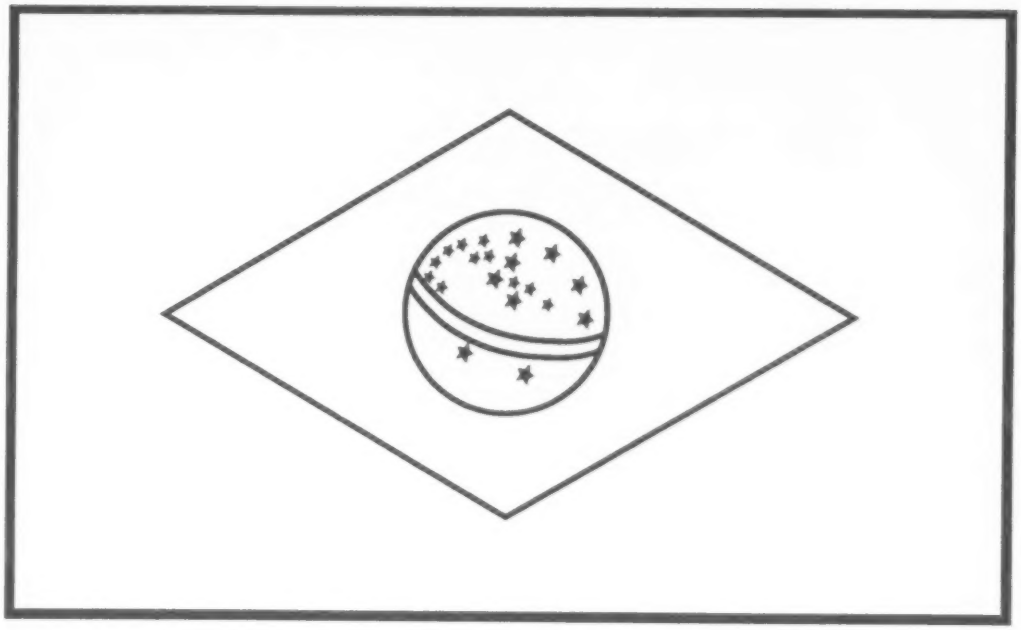
Independence and Flag Days Around the World

South America

Brazil



Chile

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South America

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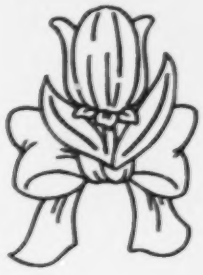
A TAKE-HOME NOTE FROM
AROUND THE WORLD



_____
Date

Dear _____,

We are _____

_____.

Please _____

_____

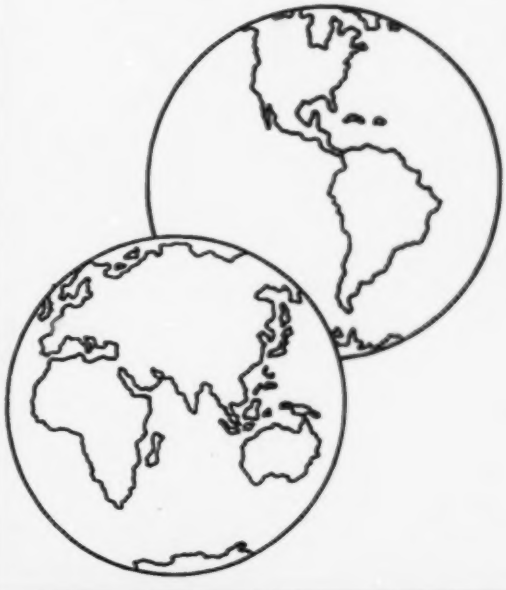
_____

_____

_____

_____

_____



_____

_____

_____

_____

Thank you!

_____
Teacher

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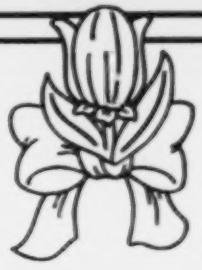
Bibliography



Chase's Annual Events
published by Contemporary Books

Customs and Holidays Around the World
by Lavinia Dobler and The Reverend Howard V. Harper, D.D.
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European Folk Festivals
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Every Day's a Holiday
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Holiday Cook Book
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The Book of Festival Holidays
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The Celebration Book of Great American Traditions
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The Folklore of American Holidays
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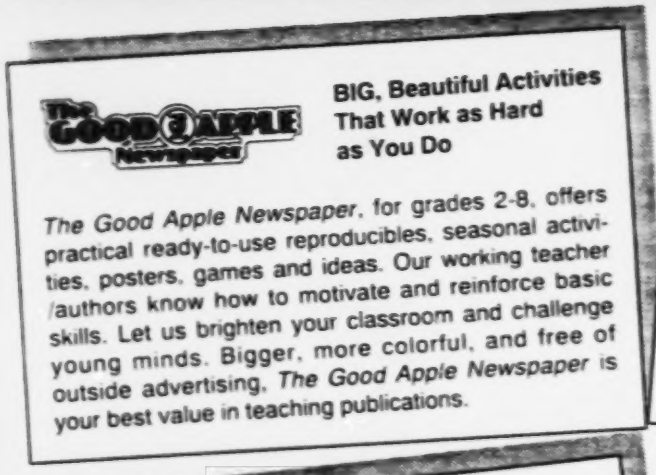
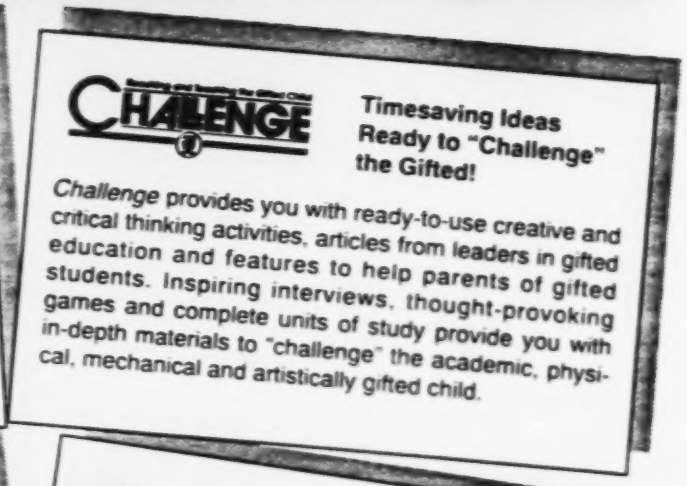


BIG, Beautiful Activities That Work as Hard as You Do

The Good Apple Newspaper, for grades 2-8, offers practical ready-to-use reproducibles, seasonal activities, posters, games and ideas. Our working teacher /authors know how to motivate and reinforce basic skills. Let us brighten your classroom and challenge young minds. Bigger, more colorful, and free of outside advertising, *The Good Apple Newspaper* is your best value in teaching publications.



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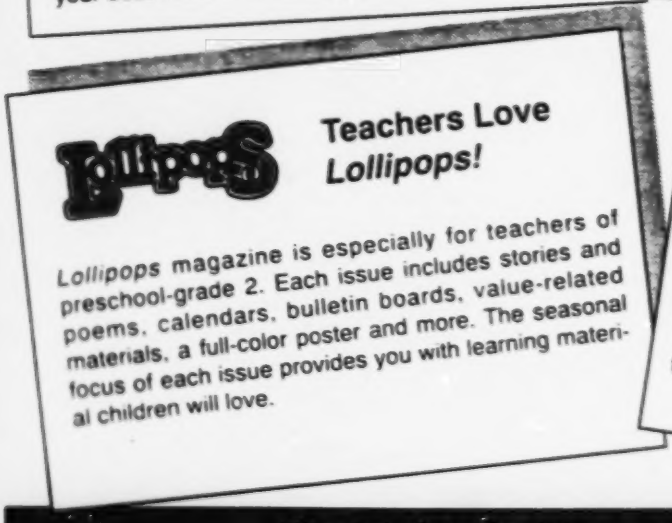
Challenge provides you with ready-to-use creative and critical thinking activities, articles from leaders in gifted education and features to help parents of gifted students. Inspiring interviews, thought-provoking games and complete units of study provide you with in-depth materials to "challenge" the academic, physical, mechanical and artistically gifted child.



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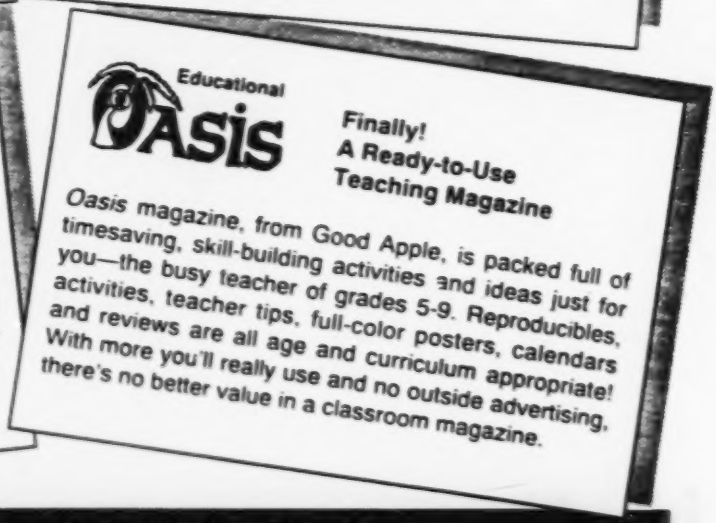

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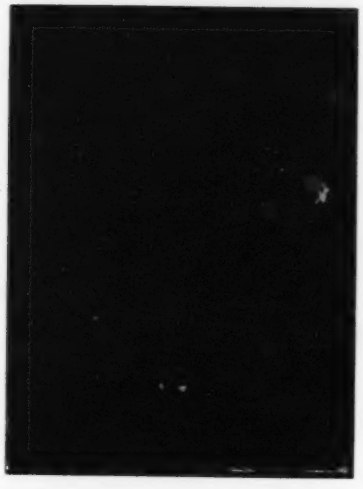
Books by Marilynn G. Barr

GA1429 International Winter Festivals
GA1510 International Fall Festivals

About the Author



Marilynn G. Barr began writing teacher resource materials on a free-lance basis in 1986, inspired by experiences of motherhood and substitute teaching. She attended the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, majoring in fine arts with a discipline in portraiture. She has over thirty teacher resource books in the marketplace, many of which have been selections for teacher book clubs. She is currently a member of the Children's Book Writers Society, Graphic Artist Guild, and EDSA. For her efforts to increase environmental awareness in children of all ages, Marilynn has received local and national attention. She works from her studio in Greensboro, North Carolina, where children are always welcome. These are the individuals from whom she receives her inspiration. Marilynn lives in Greensboro, North Carolina, with her husband Gene and teenaged son Jason.

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